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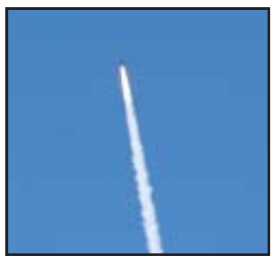

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The Eagle

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command

Volume 13, Number 9, October 2006

U.S. Army astronaut returns to Earth safely

By DJ Montoya
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

It's back to Earth and "boots on the ground" for U.S. Army Col. Jeffrey N. Williams as he returned from his six-month stay on board the International Space Station (ISS) this Sept. 28 at 9:13 p.m. Eastern time.

Williams was the primary flight engineer and NASA science officer for Expedition 13. He along with Cosmonaut Commander Pavel Vinogradov and Anousheh Ansari, a spaceflight participant who came on board with the arrival of Expedition 14, departed the ISS earlier this afternoon in a Soyuz spacecraft eventually landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan.

Williams wrote in an e-mail sent several hours prior to leaving the station: "Expedition 13 and the years of training and preparations leading up to it was the most challenging and, yet, rewarding endeavor of my life.

"It has been an honor to serve in this way and be part of the Expedition that returned the Station crew to a size of three, successfully completed the return-to-flight of the Space Shuttle, and resumed the assembly of the International Space Station," he wrote.

"It has also been an honor to represent the U.S. Army and our command in that service. I am very grateful for the support given to my family and me during this endeavor."

Both Williams and Vinogradov began their mission March 30 when they launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and docked with the station April 1.

As part of the overall mission of Expedition 13, Williams and crew participated in the return to assembly of the station. Among other things he helped welcome and assist the Space Shuttle Atlantis crew as it brought the P3/P4 truss and its solar wings to the station during its STS-115 mission Sept. 9-21. He also played a major role in the continued station maintenance as well as doing scientific experiments.

He and Vinogradov will spend several weeks in Star City, near Moscow, for debriefing and medical examinations.

A veteran of STS-101 in May 2000, Williams did one spacewalk during that flight to the station and two on this ISS mission.

Photo Courtesy NASA

While talking on a telephone, Army Astronaut Col. Jeffrey N. Williams, Expedition 13 flight engineer and NASA ISS science officer, is surrounded by Russian and American search and recovery teams on the steppe of central Kazakhstan Sept. 29. This came a short while after the landing in the Soyuz TMA-8 spacecraft following undocking earlier in the day from the International Space Station. Williams and Cosmonaut Pavel V. Vinogradov, Expedition 13 commander, spent 183 days in space.

(Related story, pages 12-13)

Rumsfeld visits missile defense site at Greely

Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld looks on as Spc. Russell Smith briefs his duties as a weapons operator for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) on Fort Greely, Alaska. Secretary Rumsfeld visited the Missile Defense Complex Aug. 27. The 49th is the operational arm of the nation's missile defense capability.

By Maj. Laura Kenney, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) Public Affairs

FORT GREELY, Alaska — Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld got his first in-person look at the missile defense system he's been helping to fund during a visit here Aug. 27. At one point actually climbing down into one of the silos, the secretary, escorted by Lt. Gen. Henry Obering, director of the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency, received a full guided tour of the system's nuts and bolts. He watched crew-members of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) at their consoles, which they man 24/7. He toured assembly and storage areas, asking numerous questions, followed everywhere by a small crowd of media, although none joined him

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The Command Corner

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen
Commanding General

CSM David L. Lady
Command Sergeant Major

There are certain events that forever affect our lives. We recognized one such event recently with the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The circumstances of this attack on our Homeland called for unity and resolute action, and in response, our nation and military forces took an appropriate military response. President George W. Bush noted this sense of national commitment in the Presidential Proclamation declaring Sept. 11 as Patriot Day. "Since that day, we have seen the greatness of America further demonstrated in the courage of our brave men and women who have served and sacrificed in Afghanistan, in Iraq and around the world to advance freedom and prevent terrorist attacks on America," he said.

World events and the evolving international environment have had significant implications for our nation, our military forces, and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. With this edition of *The Eagle* focused on the "Year in Review," it is appropriate to recap briefly some of our notable achievements.

SMDC/ARSTRAT has been at the forefront of delivering responsive military capabilities in support of our nation's joint warfighters. For example, shortly after 9/11, SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers and civilians deployed to multiple overseas and stateside locations in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. Subsequently, this command provided invaluable support in the preparations for and conduct of combat operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom and humanitarian relief operations for Joint Task Force Katrina. SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers remain engaged as part of ongoing operations, providing space, missile defense and technological capabilities to joint warfighters serving around the globe in support of our nation's security interests.

Support to current operations provides clear evidence of the vital importance that space-based products and services are to our nation and military forces. Tremendous achievements have also been made in quickly delivering enhanced technological capabilities and highly trained personnel in support of joint warfighters. Joint blue force situational awareness capabilities, spectral imagery, development of the Army Space Cadre, and training space professionals are only a few examples. We have also achieved great success in equipping and training organic Space Support Elements for the modular formations. These capabilities were also employed recently in support of the U.S. - Republic of Korea command post exercise Ulchi Focus Lens that took place in August. More than 50 Soldiers from the 1st Space Brigade deployed and participated in this exercise.

Providing our Homeland, deployed forces, friends and allies credible capabilities to defend against ballistic missile attack is one of our nation's highest priorities. The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) was activated in October 2003 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Less than one year later, the brigade, along with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD), activated at Fort Greely, Alaska, in January 2004, was ready to execute their mission.

Several ground-based interceptors have been placed into silos at Fort Greely and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., providing a limited defense capability against a ballistic missile attack while continuing the conduct of rigorous development and testing. The GMD portion of the nation's ballistic missile defense system is being built to provide an effective defense against ballistic missiles of all ranges and in all phases of flight. To meet the

See ***Achievements*** on page 3

Although there is no SMDC/ARSTRAT Army Family Action Conference, that does not mean that this command cannot participate in the Army Family Action Program. A new way has been found to bring issues to the commanding general and the Army.

Over the past three years, SMDC/ARSTRAT has developed a very strong AFAP. Thoughtful recommendations from Soldiers, civilian workers, family members and retirees have led to resolution of some very difficult issues which had previously hindered or frustrated our citizens as they went about their lives and missions. A first-rate Web site has been created, allowing for communication throughout the command and ensuring that resolution to all problems is posted for all to see.

A centerpiece of the program was the annual SMDC/ARSTRAT Army Family Action Conference. Delegates from all SMDC/ARSTRAT installations and units came together and, with the help of staff and subject matter experts, reviewed and developed the best of the issues raised at the local level, recommending the most significant to Lt. Gen. Dodgen for forwarding to Department of the Army, Department of Defense and Congress for solution.

Because of severe funding cuts, SMDC/ARSTRAT was forced to cancel this year's Army Family Action Conference. While disappointing, this was the right decision in light of the severe funding restrictions imposed by the vice chief of staff in order to properly resource the Global War on Terrorism.

In order to maintain the program, the SMDC/ARSTRAT G-1 Section, led by Lt. Col. Gary Quintero and Debbie Heidt, has developed an alternative method for collecting and developing issues.

Using the command intranet and the G-1 Family Issues AFAP Web page, SMDC/ARSTRAT personnel and family members were encouraged to submit their issues and concerns online. These issues were collected by the AFAP Working Group and have been studied and refined over the last two months. With the help from Department of the Army subject matter experts, the scope of each issue has been developed and solutions have been considered. The solution recommendations have been to either: Forward the issue to Department of the Army; solve the issue using SMDC/ARSTRAT policies and resources; inform the recommender that a solution is unattainable; inform the recommender that the issue has already been solved.

As of Sept. 15, all issues raised through the Web site began consideration by an AFAP Steering Committee. The committee members are the deputy commander for operations and his spouse, the brigade commanders and their spouses, SMDC/ARSTRAT command sergeant major and his spouse, and G-1 personnel. They will carefully review each issue, and the recommendations for solution will be accepted or rejected. If rejected, the staff will be directed to gather more information or to look at other, not yet considered, solutions.

Those issues, which the AFAP Steering Committee agree should be forwarded to the Army, will be presented to Lt. Gen. Dodgen for his approval and will then be sent forward for the Army staff to develop and present for solution to the General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC), chaired by the vice chief of staff of the Army.

We can be confident that the loss of funds for our own conference has not hurt or delayed the AFAP process. The

See ***AFAP*** on page 6

The Eagle ... is an authorized unofficial newspaper published for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command published under the authority of AR 360-1. The editorial style applies the industry standard Associated Press Stylebook. Contents of *The Eagle* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or SMDC/ARSTRAT. This monthly newspaper uses offset reproduction and has a circulation of 2,250. Reader input is solicited and welcomed; however, no payment will be made for such contributions. For more information about SMDC/ARSTRAT or to view *The Eagle* on-line, visit our Web site at www.smdc.army.mil.

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What We Think

The Eagle asks:

Do you think professional athletes are automatically role models for our young people? If so, do you think that's fair?

No, I don't think so. Their character comes from how they carry themselves off the field. If they carry themselves well, they are a role model; and if they don't, they are not.

Rick Grayson
G-4
Colorado Springs, Colo.

The socialization of America has created an environment where professional athletes are, by default, the superstars we look up to. At the end of the day, no, I don't think it is fair. Being a superstar does not speak to morality or character, and any athlete's actions on the field do not relate to their actions in their everyday lifestyle. This can give a false impression to American youth.

1st Lt. Ted Perry
53rd Signal Battalion
Assistant S-3
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Unfortunately, I do not think that professional athletes are automatically role models. Role models should inspire the next generation towards an outward focus. The mission of a role model, I believe, should be to promote the idea that there is within each of us the ability to inspire those around us by living a life that is more outward focused than inward focused. Demonstrating that by being selfless, we can do our part to make the world a better place. It is not only what we say, but more importantly, the manner in which we live out our lives that shows what each of us is made of and determines a true role model, regardless of profession.

Brenda L. Rains
Business Operations Analyst
Technical Center Operations
Huntsville, Ala.

Yes, willingly or not, it is an "unofficial" part of their contract. Athletes, from the high school level to the professional ranks, have a great opportunity to teach children valuable life lessons such as fair play, discipline, the pursuit of a goal, respect for others, humility and achievement — and 99 percent of athletes do. Parents, however, are the ultimate role models for their children, regardless of their age.

Brian T. Camperson,
Senior Military Analyst to the
Commanding General
SYColeman
Arlington, Va.

Yes, it comes with the territory and isn't unfair. Young people who are fans will inherently emulate their favorite athlete. A professional athlete with a good character and conscience will realize they do make an impression, and their conduct on and off the field will be respectable and worth emulating.

Sgt. 1st Class Joe Winsor
100th Missile Defense Brigade
(Ground-based Midcourse Defense)
Senior Human Resources Sergeant
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Achievements

continued from page 2

projected threat, the nation's BMDS will be systematically upgraded in the future with additional GBIs, sensors, battle management capabilities and emerging technologies as they become available.

During his recent trip to Fort Greely, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld recognized the increasing robustness of the BMDS, stating, "It is an activity that with each passing month has become more capable." He also acknowledged the commitment and capabilities of the BMDS team, which includes our operators in Colorado and Alaska: "I have a lot of confidence in these folks, and I have a lot of confidence in the work that's been done." The successful engagement earlier this month of a target missile by a ground-based interceptor is another important step forward for our nation's BMDS. Commenting on this latest test, Secretary Rumsfeld said, "Successful tests such as these increase confidence in the approach to developing an initial missile defense capability."

In addition to our Title 10 Army responsibilities to train, maintain and equip assigned forces, our designation in 2002 as the Army Service Component Command to the U.S. Strategic Command resulted in the assignment of new missions that required additional planning and coordination responsibilities. SMDC/ARSTRAT is now responsible for all Army support to USSTRATCOM for Space Operations, Global Integrated Missile Defense, Global Strike, Global Information Operations, and Global Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance. More recently, the August 2005 formation of the USSTRATCOM Measurements and Signals Intelligence Node has built on the Spectral Operations Resource Center's MASINT capabilities (e.g., radar, infrared) in support of USSTRATCOM.

SMDC/ARSTRAT remains deeply committed to ensuring our support to joint warfighters is relevant, responsive and fully integrates the immense capabilities of our Reserve Components. The result has been an infusion of new capabilities. For example, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD), 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD), and Colorado Army National Guard Space Support Battalion, manned almost entirely of National Guard Soldiers, deploy and fulfill mission responsibilities indistinguishable from their Active Component counterparts.

The focus and urgency of our efforts have perhaps no greater importance at any time in our nation's history. Clearly, it is up to all of us to ensure our capabilities and the quality of operational support is focused in support of our nation's joint warfighters.

Finally, this month also serves as an important time to remind ourselves of the importance of security and safety. I encourage each of you to remain attentive to your surroundings, obey the rules of the road, always wear your seatbelt, and stay alert while driving.

Secure the High Ground!

Successful flight test for GMD interceptor/crew

By Maj. Laura Kenney, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) Public Affairs

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — A successful test of the ground-based interceptor was launched here Sept. 1 by members of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) headquartered in Colorado. The flight test, designed to gather data on tracking and targeting mechanisms, also achieved an additional goal of destroying the target it was launched against — not a primary objective of the test but one very welcome to supporters and operators of the system.

Some of those operators were on hand here at Ronald W. Reagan Missile Defense Test Site to observe the launch. The "BOOM" of the rocket's departure was followed by exuberant shouts and resounding high fives as members of the 100th MDB's liaison team celebrated. Minutes later, with the report of a "kill" against the mock intercontinental ballistic missile launched from Kodiak, Alaska, elation again reigned. Muffled comments expressing surprise at the interceptor's success rose from the mixed crowd of media, civilian and military observers, but were for the most part drowned out by applause and cheers.

"We've always believed in the system and are of course 100 percent behind its goal of national defense, so this is a great day for GMDers, to actually see it work, and demonstrate that it's capable of doing the job," said Maj. Ron Hoard, a missile defense crew director on liaison duty here.

The members of the crew who launched the interceptor from the highly secure node located at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs were also justifiably proud at "their" interceptor's success, especially as it was the first live one actually fired by any member of the 100th MDB. The Soldiers who man the system in its 24/7 mission of defending the homeland have been through years of grueling computer simulations, but this marked their first time with the "real thing."

Maj. Paul Fritz, director of the crew, had been heard as the calm voice over the loudspeaker during the countdown to launch — his "GMD ready," preceding the well-known "10, 9, 8, 7…."

Afterwards he said, "It was very exciting to use the system for the first time from end to end with fully operational equipment. I have to admit, as each "gate" was reached, as each green light for a particular stage came on, I was almost holding my breath. We'd gotten really close the day before, then the launch was aborted due to weather, so … going all the way with this one, and then finding out the intercept was a total success, was very satisfying."

The ground-based midcourse defense system is part of the nation's emerging missile defense arsenal. The 100th MDB operates the system, with interceptors located here and at Fort Greely, Alaska. Previous tests of the system featured interceptors launched from Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. This test was the first using a missile based at one of the two primary sites. It was also the first launched by military operators.

The test began with the target launch from Kodiak at 10:23 a.m. Pacific time. Sixteen minutes later, the interceptor left the launch pad here, colliding with and destroying the target over the Pacific Ocean at 10:46. The test also integrated a new radar system based at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

The commander of the 100th MDB, Col. Michael Yowell, was full of praise for his unit and the crew on duty who launched the missile.

"Everyone wanted to be involved. This successful test was a huge boost for the missile defense system, and I'm very proud of the crew on duty and all the others who continually train under realistic conditions. We approach each and every training mission as if it were the real thing — we have to get it 100 percent right all the time. The mission is too important for anything less than that standard."

Photo courtesy of Missile Defense Agency

A Ground-Based Interceptor is shown shortly after liftoff from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., on Sept. 1. The launch was part of a Missile Defense Agency test of the Ballistic Missile Defense System it is designing against threats in all phases and ranges of flight. The missile intercepted a long-range target that had been launched from Kodiak, Alaska, several minutes earlier.

Combat EEO course designed to support commanders

By Ed White SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Eleven Soldiers and two civilians took part in an Equal Employment Opportunity qualification class given by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command's senior Equal Employment Opportunity Soldier, Sgt 1st Class Jason Porter.

The 40-hour course was called a Combat Course because it was first used by Porter in Iraq to quickly provide qualified Soldiers within units to perform the EEO function. The normal duration for the qualification course is 80 hours.

"By condensing the course to 40 hours, we were keeping all the primary information and providing commanders with motivated, trained individuals who can advise the commander on a range of issues," Porter said.

Topics covered in the course included understanding and dealing with cultural diversity, how to recognize and handle cases of sexual harassment, how to recognize and prevent the spread of sexism, and how to recognize and prevent racism.

Participants in the class included Lt. Col. Anthony Chavez, Capt. Stephen Young, 1st Lt. Theodore Perry, Staff Sergeants Luke Blum, Tanya Barksdale, Aaron Donaldson and Daniel Runkles, Sergeants Tonya Castorena, Pamela Joyner, Scott Hontz and Patrick Contreras. The two civilians who took the course were Tom Coleman and Mark Rudd.

Porter is the command's chief enlisted EEO specialist. He has been in EEO assignments since 2002 at Fort Bliss, Texas, deployed with his unit to Iraq in 2003 and developed the "Combat EEO" course to provide commanders with trusted agents within the units, who can give accurate assessments of command climate.

In 2005, he was assigned to his current position with SMDC/ARSTRAT.

"I enjoy helping people with issues and solving problems," Porter said. "That is what EEO is all about."

Photo by Ed White

(From left) Lt. Col. Anthony Chavez makes a point to Staff Sgt. Luke Blum and Staff Sgt. Daniel Runkles during the After Action Report for the recently held Equal Employment Opportunity qualification class which was given by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Porter (not pictured), SMDC/ARSTRAT, equal opportunity advisor.

Civilian News

TSP returns for G, F, C, S and I funds

Rates of return were updated on Sept. 5.

August 2006		Last 12 months (9/1/05 -8/31/06)	
G Fund	0.44%	G Fund	4.91%
F Fund	1.58%	F Fund	1.77%
C Fund	2.36%	C Fund	8.89%
S Fund	2.15%	S Fund	8.72%
I Fund	2.76%	I Fund	23.44%

FEHBP premiums rise 1.8 percent

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program will increase by an average of 1.8 percent next year, the lowest annual increase in the government's employee program since 1997, said the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Sept. 19. OPM said about 63 percent of FEHBP enrollees will not have a premium increase in 2007, and another 15 percent will see a premium increase of less than 5 percent. On average, OPM said, employees will contribute 2.3 percent more to their health care, while the government contribution of about 72 percent will increase by 1.6 percent. OPM said premiums in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan will decline by up to $1.29 per bi-weekly pay period—or stay the same, depending on the enrollment option. According to OPM, Blue Cross and Blue Shield has more than 56 percent of FEHBP enrollments. At the same time, OPM also announced the availability of additional FEHBP options and providers, as well as the new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, which is available for the first time to eligible federal employees and retirees. To see the OPM summary, go to: http://www.opm.gov/news/opm-announces-18-percent-fehbp-premium-increase-for-2007-marks-fifth-consecutive-year-of-declining-rate-hikes,1090.aspx.

FCC establishes new homeland security bureau

In an effort to improve emergency communication in times of national crisis or natural disaster, the Federal Communications Commission has created a Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. The bureau will coordinate all FCC's activities involving public safety, national security, disaster management policy/planning and outreach. The new department is to provide a single central hub for the development of policies and rules to promote reliable communications for public safety, national security and disaster management, FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin said on Sept. 25. The new bureau is an attempt to address some of the communications problems that surfaced last year in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. "One of the commission's strategic goals is to ensure that public safety, health, defense and emergency personnel, as well as all consumers in need, have reliable communications during emergencies and crises," Martin said. To see the order, go to: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-35A1.doc.

Office of Personnel Management evaluating National Security Personnel System

The Office of Personnel Management is coordinating three different evaluations of the Department of Defense's National Security Personnel System (NSPS) for civilian employees, OPM Director Linda Springer told the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Sept. 20. OPM worked with DoD to implement NSPS for about 11,000 DoD employees phased in during the initial implementation known, as Spiral 1.1. Springer told the committee the evaluations include a review to assist the Secretary of Defense in making a determination that NSPS will meet the statutory criteria for applying it beyond 300,000 employees; an ongoing program evaluation; and an independent OPM evaluation to assess the effectiveness of NSPS. This evaluation will include assessing the comprehensiveness of the training provided to executives, managers, supervisors and employees as they spiraled into NSPS, Springer said. OPM expects to produce its first implementation assessment by May 1, 2007, and has included it as a goal in the agency's Strategic and Operational Plan, she said. To see more, go to: http://opm.gov/news_events/congress/testimony/9_20_2006.asp.

Military News

Freedom Team Salute honors service

More than 800,000 individuals and numerous organizations have been recognized for their dedication to Soldiers through the Freedom Team Salute Program. The Freedom Team Salute gives Active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers an opportunity to recognize parents, spouses and employers for the support and strength they provide. The program also honors U.S. Army veterans who have served, including those who served in the Reserves or Guard. The general public and civilians as well as all Servicemembers can nominate an unlimited number of U.S. Army Veterans. For more information on FTS, to submit a nomination online, or to sign up as an ambassador, visit the Freedom Team Salute Web site at www.freedomteamsalute.com.

GI Bill payment rate increased

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that the GI Bill will soon be worth $38,700 - a total increase of nearly $1,500 over last year's rate. This total is based on the new monthly full-time student payment rate of $1,075 multiplied by the 36-month limit. If you are GI Bill eligible you get the increase no matter when you became eligible or begin using it.

Army Emergency Relief offers scholarships

Army Emergency Relief offers financial aid for full-time college study for dependent children of retired Soldiers. Scholarships are awarded based primarily on financial need and secondarily on academic achievements and individual accomplishments. The only way to ensure your child will be considered is to mail the application and all requested documents by Mar. 1, 2007. Applications for the 2007-2008 academic year scholarships will be available at the Army Emergency Relief Web site from Nov. 1 through Mar. 1, 2007. Mailed applications and/or supporting documentation must be postmarked no later than Mar. 1, 2007.

Army contest seeks ideas

In a contest running now through Nov. 27, the Office of the Army Chief Information Officer/G6 is seeking entries that include a 500-word description of an idea — with examples — on how to keep Army networks, communications and information secure. The contest is open to active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, civilian employees and supporting contractors. The winner will have his or her likeness and idea featured in January's "On Cyber Patrol" cartoon. Entries must include a brief IA-centric biography and will become the property of the OCP team. Entries with the participant's name, rank and unit should be e-mailed by 6 p.m. on Nov. 27 to — oncyberpatrol@hqda.army.mil with "OCP Contest" in the subject line.

Army game adds real heroes

"America's Army" online video game has launched its newest version, which features "America's Army: Real Heroes," a program that honors Soldiers who have shown heroism in the war on terror. In the game's latest version, players will be able to meet and interact with the real heroes and hear their stories told through a video and in the real Soldier's own words on the America's Army Website. Real Heroes is the 22nd addition to the America's Army game. Players will have access to such new weapons systems as the Javelin Missile and the Crew Remote Operated Weapon Station, as well as increasing mobility, action and firepower. The game is available for download at www.americasarmy.com.

Army Information Line provides information

The Army Information Line (toll-free) at (800) 833-6622 provides accurate information, useful resources and helpful referral services to those with issues or concerns about Army life including, but not limited to: (1) child support, (2) deployment, (3) family readiness, (4) family readiness groups, (5) finance, (6) military installations, (7) natural disaster relief and recovery information, and (8) contingency operations information. Experienced Constituent Liaisons staff the line and are available to assist Soldiers (Active-Duty, National Guard and Army Reserve), civilians, retirees, veterans and families. The Army Information Line often serves as a safety net for those who have exhausted all other resources.

Awards/Promotions

Military Promotions

Sgt. Stephen Bahn, Colorado Springs, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Capt. David Balfour, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Staff Sgt. Tanya Barksdale, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 2nd Space Company
Maj. Christopher Conroy, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company
Sgt. Joshua Crandall, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company
Pfc. Corey Davis, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Brigade, Headquarters Company
Maj. Michael Deboer, G-2, Arlington, Va.
Sgt. Luis De La Hoz, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company
Sgt. Robert Fletcher, Camp Roberts, Calif., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), D Company
Sgt. Christopher Ford, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company
Sgt. Robert Girard, Fort Detrick, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), A Company
Sgt. Vicente Gonzalez, Fort Buckner, Japan, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), E Company
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Santiago Gonzalez, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company
Pfc. James Harris, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Maury Hayes, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Brigade
Sgt. Brandon Hayman, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company
Sgt. Bryce Howe, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company
Spc. Jesse Jacka, Pacific, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company, C Detachment
Staff Sgt. Jackson Johnston, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 2nd Space Company
Sgt. Misty Knox, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Brigade, Headquarters Company
Sgt. Cosme Lavalle, Fort Detrick, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), A Company
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lewis, Colorado Springs, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Staff Sgt. Charles Mercier, Fort Detrick, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), A Company
Spc. Charles Nicosia, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company
Sgt. 1st Class Darrick Noah, Hawaii, Regional Satellite Communications Support Center-Pacific
Sgt. Ferdinand Placer, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company
Staff Sgt. Jack Runkles, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 4th Space Company
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey Sprague, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company
Staff Sgt. Charles Thigpen, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Brigade, Headquarters Company
Spc. Maegan Thomas, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Andrew Wimberly, Europe, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company, A Detachment
Spc. Laura Wise, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 4th Space Company
Spc. Chad Yoder, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company

Civilian Promotions

Teresa H. Brown, Huntsville, G-2, Security Division
Roberta Gonzales, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Office of the Garrison Commander
Jimmy Pleasant, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office
Jimmie L. Sherode, Huntsville, G-8, Program and Policy Division
Sharon P. Upton, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

On-the-Spot Cash Awards

Daisy Barnett, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Innovative Ventures Office
Bennie Kirk, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Office of the Garrison Commander
Catrina Murry, Huntsville, G-8, Program Support Division
Justin Novak, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Models and Simulations Division
Tamara Ward, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site

Special Act Awards

James Brazzell, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Rhonda Brock, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office
Jan Burke, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office
Leslie Duncan, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office
Adrian Epps, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office
Angela French, Huntsville, Technical Center, Operations
Esam El-Din Gad, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Kenneth Jordan, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Astrid Lahiere, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office
Nicole Meenen, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office
Tullie Miller, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office
James Miskelley, Huntsville, Technical Center, Matrix
Yancy Mitchell, Huntsville, Technical Center, Operations
Buphus Nall, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Brenda Partain, Huntsville, Technical Center, Operations
Daniel Peterson, Huntsville, Technical Center, Matrix
Brenda Rains, Huntsville, Technical Center, Operations
Ramona Ruh, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Amarjit Singh, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Cynthia Smith, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Andrea Weathington, Huntsville, Technical Center, Operations
Roger Williams, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Pamela Willis, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office

Time-Off Awards

Gregory Jones, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, Integrated Capability Management Division
Bunnie Scales, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, Integrated Capability Management Division

Invention Awards

Kevin D. Nash, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis Division

Superior Civilian Service Awards

Phyllis Baez, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Brigade
Michael Britton, Fort Detrick, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), A Company

Length of Service

15 Years

Vicki Cody, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Garry Freeman, Huntsville, Technical Center, Interceptor Division
Tracey Hatcher, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Frontiers Division
Russell Robinson, Colorado Springs, Future Warfare Center, Experiments and Transformation Division

20 Years

Clara Moore, Huntsville, G-8, Management Division
Rosalind Smith, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, Integrated Capability Management Division
Dan Ta, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

25 Years

Carol Barclay, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, Integrated Capability Management Division
Jeffrey Faunce, Colorado Springs, Future Warfare Center, Battle Lab
Larry Lewis, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Community Relations Branch
Ivan Romero, Huntsville, Technical Center, Ballistic Missile Defense System Test Division
Katherine Schaper, Huntsville, Chief Information Office, Plans and Operations Division
Henry Sikes, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

35 Years

Carolyn Lucas, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office

40 Years

Nelson McKown, Huntsville, Internal Review

AFAP

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Army GOSC will meet in November, and SMDC/ARSTRAT is on schedule to submit the most difficult and significant of our issues to the Army.

Our SMDC/ARSTRAT AFAP program remains a priority for Lt. Gen. Dodgen, and the staff has adapted and overcome obstacles in order to provide our personnel and families a means by which issues will go forward from the local community to the vice chief of staff.

On Point!

Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Kisner

The five newest NCOs of Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), gather with their families after their promotion ceremony.

Bravo Company welcomes five new members to its NCO ranks

Sgt. 1st Class Lamar Lauderdale
Unit reporter

FORT MEADE, Md. — It was a great day for the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers, especially those from Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, on Aug. 1. On this day, Soldiers and family members converged into the Fort Meade Museum to welcome five outstanding Warriors into the proud corps of NCOs.

Sgt. Joshua Crandall, Sgt. Luis De La Hoz, Sgt. Christopher Ford, Sgt. Bryce Howe and Sgt. Ferdinand Placer assumed the rank, "where the rubber meets the road," inside the museum that preserves an important part of the Army's tradition and rich history. Capt. Jermaine Sutton, commander of Bravo Company, was on hand to promote the Soldiers to NCO.

Traditionally, the duties of a sergeant have a greater impact on the junior enlisted Soldier than any other NCO rank. It is this rank that a junior enlisted first looks to for hands-on guidance, mentorship and direction. Soldiers choosing to assume this rank must be aware of this and accept this vital responsibility. The five leaders who were promoted to this all important rank have proven that they have what it takes to get the job done.

The Soldiers being promoted stood side by side between two massive tank displays as the narrator announced each Soldier's name individually. As each Soldier was called to take the most important step of their young professional careers, they were met by Sutton and a family member of their choice to receive their promotion.

"I worked hard to prove that I am deserving of this promotion and I can't wait to make things happen as an NCO" said Crandall. "It was also nice getting promoted with a good group of guys."

Echo Company volunteers recognized

By Capt. Jason Shin
Unit reporter

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — Four Soldiers from Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) were recognized for their volunteer work in the Okinawan community. Capt. Jason Shin, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Leiby, Sgt. William Henning and Spc. Elizabeth Precht were awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) by the Commander of 10th Area Support Group of Torii Station. In addition, they were also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Okinawa School Board. These four Soldiers participated in a year-long volunteer program to teach English to students in nearby Furugen Elementary School. The program, ran by Torii Station Community Relations, saw an increase in participation this year due to the recognition of these Soldiers.

JTAGS schoolhouse relocates

By Ed White, SMDC/ARSTRAT
Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The Joint Tactical Ground Station Soldiers have a very stressful and important job. Their mission is nothing less than to protect and support the warfighter around the world. Since 1999, the school where Soldiers and Sailors are taught the skills necessary to do the job has been in El Paso, Texas, but a recent move brought the JTAGS schoolhouse here.

"The move from Texas is good for the unit," said Sgt. 1st Class Todd Avery, chief instructor. "It puts us closer to the company and battalion assets that we can use to support the course."

The course is a seven week program that is open to Soldiers and Sailors. It teaches the fundamentals of the system and gives the students practice in scenarios that mimic real-world events. Soldiers and Sailors who complete the course can expect to be put to work in Asia, Europe, the Middle East or Colorado Springs.

"Currently we have six Army and two Navy students in this first class in the new location," Avery said. "Every move has hassles, but we took care of our Soldiers and their families and we are up and running smoothly again."

The small staff of six instructors teaching the craft of early warning to a slow but steady stream of students has ensured that Joint and coalition forces around the globe have the capability to defend themselves against enemy missile launches. With the move to Colorado Springs, the capability, the education and the tradition continues.

Photo by Ed White

Students and instructors alike enjoy a comfortable environment in the classroom trailers. Students are from the Army and the Navy and can look forward to stationing in Europe, Asia or the Middle East upon graduation.

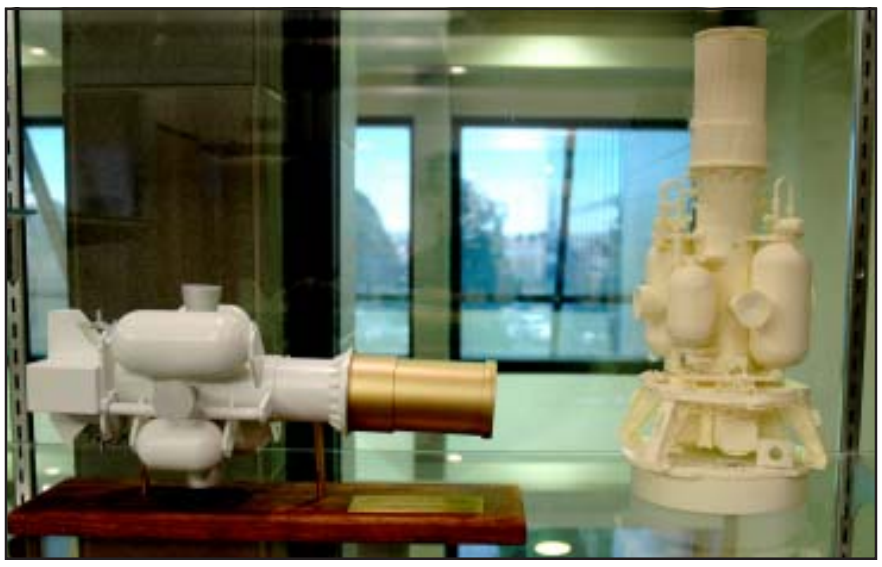

Photo by Sgt. Sara Storey

Two exo-atmospheric kill vehicle models are proudly displayed in the trophy case of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense). On the left is the model donated by Boeing, on the right is the facsimile given to the unit by Hughes Corporation.

Donations prove companies are 'models' of generosity

By Sgt. Sara Storey, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) Public Affairs NCO

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A display case in the 100th Missile Defense Brigade's lobby that was bordering on empty is now filled with exo-atmospheric kill vehicle models thanks to the generosity of two companies.

An EKV is a crucial part of the 100th MDB (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) inventory. The kill vehicle is part of the ground-based interceptor — during an intercept, the GBI flies toward an intercontinental ballistic missile's predicted location and releases the EKV on a path with the incoming target. The kill vehicle then uses data from ground-based radars and its own on-board sensors to collide with the target, destroying both the target and kill vehicle using only the kinetic force of impact.

The first EKV model was donated to the 100th MDB (GMD) by Hughes Corporation — the company that manufactures the actual EKVs — through a GMDer's family member.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Rice was visitng family on leave and during a big family dinner spoke with his uncle, George Coppus, who works for Hughes. Rice told Coppus that the unit had been trying for some time to track down a model EKV to display at headquarters.

"My uncle said, 'No problem!' and I had the model within a month," Rice said.

Upon arrival, Rice brought the replica to the unit and presented it to Col. Michael L. Yowell, brigade commander, Aug. 21 on behalf of the crews that serve the 100th at the Missile Defense Element.

The second kill vehicle model was presented to Yowell by Jim C. Ransick and Benjamin L. Cassidy of The Boeing Company Aug. 31.

Rice said the models nicely complement one another — the Hughes replica is an extremely detailed, mono-chromatic one; while Boeing's is a sturdier, multi-colored facsimile that can easily be taken to conferences and other events.

Charlie Company hits the links

By Spc. Martin Jensen
Unit reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — It was a beautiful, summer morning. The sun was shining. The birds were chirping. It was a great day for golf. So, that is exactly what members of Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion did. The location: Woodlawn Golf Course. The mission: company golf tournament. The objective: fun.

The tournament included 28 individuals, and not only did they show up to play, but each one brought the most important element to an enjoyable occasion — good attitudes.

Everyone was in high spirits and ready to have a great time. The event went off without a hitch. The first tee-time was at 8 a.m. and the entire tournament seemed to be finished way too soon.

One of the golfers, Spc. Michael Simpson said, "The whole thing was so fun, I didn't want it to end. But it did before I even realized it. I really enjoyed winning too."

The tournament was played in a best ball format. In this format, everyone on each team hits their own ball from the tee, and the "best ball" hit is the shot that is used. Then, everyone on the team hits from the spot at which that ball stopped.

After finishing, the group sat on the patio, which is perched above the 18th green and told their big fish stories. To anyone listening in, it would have sounded like everyone who played was Tiger Woods. But looking at some of the scorecards, it was obvious that most played more like neglected chimpanzees. To end the event, Capt. Andre Reed, company commander, passed out the awards and the Control Warriors dispersed and went about their separate ways.

Obviously, you do not have to be a great golfer to get out and enjoy yourself at the golf course. No one there was a seasoned pro, but everyone enjoyed themselves giving a shining example of how the members of Charlie Company can get together and truly build camaraderie amongst everyone.

Courtesy photo

Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion Commander, Capt. Andre Reed, left, presents Sgt. Michael Welford a box of golf balls for coming closest to the hole.

Rumsfeld

continued from page 1

for the silo climb.

Rumsfeld shook hands with many Soldiers, including each member of the Alpha Company Military Police. The unit, part of the 49th MD Bn., provides site security for the missile defense complex. The secretary was presented an award that designated him as an "Honorary Sentry" in the task of safeguarding missile defense. MP company commander, Capt. Kyle Holt, briefed the secretary on his unit's mission and capabilities.

"Secretary Rumsfeld asked questions of us that clearly showed he was already very well-informed about what we do. He was very up-front and personable. Meeting him was definitely a milestone in my career," said Holt.

After touring, the secretary held a press conference. Questions from the media focused on the upcoming flight test, and sought Rumsfeld's opinion on the viability of the missile defense program.

One reporter asked if he [Rumsfeld] wasn't frustrated that the system had had a number of "failed" intercepts, this far along in his second term as secretary of defense.

Rumsfeld replied emphatically, "Frustrated is not an appropriate term. There have been a number of successful intercepts. And we have this upcoming test on Thursday [Aug. 31]. I have been involved with this program from the moment President Ronald Reagan announced his vision for the Strategic Defense Initiative, and it's come a long way. Today, it's now national policy that we defend against intercontinental ballistic missiles. Today, according to the director of the program [Obering] we have a limited ability to do just that. He [Obering] said we were ready for Korea, and we were. I have a lot of confidence in these people and what they're doing."

After Rumsfeld's departure, Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commander, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, addressed the troops and told them how proud he was of them, and that Rumsfeld shared that pride.

"The secretary was very impressed with what a great job you've done in just two years. He's walking out of here on a pretty good high," said Dodgen.

Rumsfeld visited the missile site as part of a larger visit to Alaska during which he met with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov in Fairbanks. The two discussed the U.S. missile system and how it may affect Russia.

Critical Measurements Test Program had a 14-year run

By LuAnne Fantasia
SMDC/ ARSTRAT Public Affairs

The command's Critical Measurements and Countermeasures Flight Test Program ended a 14-year run of quality service to customers earlier this year with a successful final 2-missile launch test at the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

Dale Perry, FTC-2 mission director for the April 13 and 28 flight tests from Kauai, said the tests met 23 of the 24 objectives identified by the customer — the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, or MDA.

"We just had the data review with the actual ballistic missile defense systems elements that will use the data," Perry said. "They presented how the data collected by the various sensors will be used to enhance current and future capabilities of the systems. They were pleased with the amount and quality of the data collected."

Perry said FTC-2 was one of the most complex missions ever flown in a two-shot campaign.

Records in the command historical office document the program's genesis as February 1992, with period briefings describing the first Theater Missile Defense Countermeasures Mitigation Program, or TCMP, test in 1993 as the "broadest array of measurement capability ever assembled." Sharon Watkins-Lang, a historian at SMDC/ARSTRAT, said the measurements program helps define what various things look like in optical sensors and radar systems as they fly through space and the atmosphere.

"It identifies their signature — to be able to differentiate between a warhead and the fuel tank, for example," Lang said. For a little more history, Lang also explained that the program's first customer — now the U.S. Missile Defense Agency — was called the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization at the time of the first measurement flight test in 1993, later changing to Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, or BMDO.

Ivan Romero is the associate director for Test and Evaluation Directorate at SMDC/ARSTRAT. Test & Evaluation is one of two directorates in the command's Technical Center, led by Dr. Rodney Robertson.

"The measurements program is an ongoing research effort to support development of missile defense technology — born out of the first Gulf War from lessons learned by the PATRIOT System," Romero said.

"When BMDO called for a set of experiments to address theater ballistic missile defense issues, SMDC — in cooperation with MIT/LL — implemented the TCMP," Romero said. As the program evolved, more emphasis was placed on broader ballistic missile defense issues and the term "theater" was removed.

Romero has been an SMDC/ARSTRAT engineer since 1992 and came to the program in 1998. "Chuck Jennings was the first program manager for TCMP, followed by Mike Lash," he said. The program's name has changed several times since its inception in '92; TCMP, TMD Critical Measurements Program; Critical Measurements Program and finally Critical Measurements and Countermeasures Program.

Although the moniker changed several times, customer service and quality of the data collection remained consistent. After TCMP-3A on Wake Island, September 1999, MDA selected SMDC/ARSTRAT to plan and execute the System Integration Test II, the Aerial Dispersion Experiment, the Red Dog Campaign, CMP-4, CMCM-1 and 2, and the BMD System Tests. *(See sidebar for program chronology)*

The program saw 10 campaigns with a total of 17 launches from four different test ranges, and all were technically successful. Romero said one of the launches had an anomaly but because the customer felt anomalies are reality — therefore integral to realistic scenarios — that launch was considered a huge success.

It's all for the customer

Data collection could be on different payloads, to include countermeasures and re-entry vehicles, or boosters, according to Kevin Creekmore. "We collected data on the entire system using radars, telemetry, and optics. We've used both the test range

See ***Test Program*** on page 14

Army graphic

The command's Critical Measurements and Countermeasures Flight Test Program ended a 14-year run earlier this year but the Technical Center continues to explore new areas where their test expertise directly supports the warfighter. The measurements testing defines what various things look like in optical sensors and radar systems as they fly through space and the atmosphere — identifying an object's signature.

Highlights of the program's chronology

Jan. 28, 1993 — The first campaign of the Theater Missile Defense Critical Measurements Program, or TCMP, was completed at U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, or USAKA. Officials launched the booster from Wake Island. Radars on Kwajalein tracked the payload. The TCMP program was a product of Operation Desert Storm and the recognized need to gather data on "threat-like missiles" and improve the effectiveness of Theater Missile Defense, or TMD, systems.

July 15, 1996 — Successful completion of a flight test under the TCMP. The test originated from Wake Island, flying toward USAKA, collecting both optical and radar data. The payload included a crude-maneuvering reentry vehicle, three reentry radar decoys, one United Kingdom test article, and a Fly Away Sensor Package, or FASP, as part of a test designed to collect radar and infrared data to address critical system level issues for planned TMD elements. This was the first flight of a three-flight TCMP-2 campaign.

Feb. 21, 1997 — The Sensors Directorate conducted the first TCMP 2A. Test 2C was conducted Feb. 28. The launches — which took place on Wake Island — collected radar and optical data with the infrared sensor. The THAAD radar met maximum range detection requirements. The target was a Castor rocket.

March 1, 1997 — TCMP completed two successful sub-orbital launches from Wake Island to USAKA. During these tests, which sought to test specific aspects of the Theater High Altitude Area Defense radar, a variety of reentry experiments were deployed, including a fly-away sensor package, reentry vehicles and decoys. The objective of the TCMP campaign is to collect radar and optical data on a variety of possible tactical ballistic missile threats to be used in the design of TMD interceptor and sensor systems. The command successfully conducted two earlier flight tests in this TCMP-2 campaign July 15, 1996, and Jan. 28, 1993.

September 1999 — The fifth TCMP, with booster launched from Wake Island to USAKA. Payload consisted of a reentry vehicle, two science experiments and a FASP "as part of a mission designed to collect radar and infrared data to address critical system level issues for missile defense elements."

Feb. 21, 2001 — TCMP-3B achieved all mission objectives. This mission was "designed to collect radar and optical data to address critical system level issues for missile defense elements, thus the payloads included a reentry vehicle, three missile defense experiments and a FASP." Previous TCMP campaigns have provided data immediately useful to a number of TMD programs. The program has "received numerous compliments from the MDAPS on the quality and quantity of the data collection during TCMP-3B," Program Manager Ivan Romero said.

Sept. 29, 2004 — MDA and SMDC/ARSTRAT successfully launched the first in a series of sub-orbital rockets from Wake Island to USAKA. The test was designed to obtain extensive data collection as part of the TCMP and will be used to improve missile defense interceptor and sensor systems. A second test was conducted Oct. 6.

Safety: Everyone's business

Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Kivlehen
Unit reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — There is inherent risk in every activity conducted by anyone, anywhere. From making the daily commute to the office to base jumping on a holiday weekend, a certain level of risk is assumed and accepted. Though the complete eradication of risk is impossible, there are measures that can greatly reduce the probability of incident and/or minimize the damage suffered should one occur. The key is to mitigate risk as much as possible. The challenge is to balance risk mitigation measures with the necessary actions required to accomplish a mission.

In order to promote safety, Soldiers in Charlie Company, 53d Signal Battalion, receive safety briefings from their commander, Capt. Andre Reed, before every holiday weekend. Promoting safety is the responsibility of every Servicemember and civilian in the military. Military service operates at elevated risk levels due to the nature of the mission, which requires a greater awareness of the presence of hazards and a vigilant practice of implementing appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all personnel and equipment. This, in turn, contributes directly to mission success by assuring our forces are operating at their maximum capability.

The prescribed method of risk management is to perform a risk assessment; to identify and assess the hazards involved with any given situation. Then planners mitigate the risk by determining and implementing controls to reduce the likeliness of an accident. This is all done on worksheets and reviewed in the planning stages and presented to those conducting an operation or activity. These worksheets are an essential tool in the safe execution of military operations, but not the only tool. The best tool in mitigating risk is a mindset of safety instilled into each and every service member and civilian.

To maximize the safety of personnel conducting an operation, those individuals must be constantly aware of their environment and the conditions they operate under. Soldiers understand this, as they hear phrases early in their career such as, "Mission First, Soldiers Second, Safety Always," and "Stay Alert, Stay Alive." These are much more than catch phrases and mottos. These ideas are the key to enabling a fighting force to protect itself both on and off the battlefield. Every leader "worth their salt" will enforce these ideas so that a risk assessment will be a fluent entity, constantly evolving as the situation changes. Servicemembers and civilians will be capable of evaluating hazards and assessing risk almost subconsciously. Just as important, they will be able to identify and act on a safety violation immediately.

Reed sums up his weekly safety briefings in one quote: "No one can do more to save your life than you."

1st Space Battalion Soldiers 'Just Say No'

Capt. Alys'sa Aarhaus
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Space Battalion

Photo by Ed White

Members of the 1st Space Battalion listen to an Alcoholics Anonymous presentation as part of the battalion's drug and alcohol prevention and awareness program.

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — With an Alcoholics Anonymous speaker and specific drug awareness presentations, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 1st Space Battalion, in Colorado Springs devoted an entire morning to the value of drug prevention.

Sgt. Tasha McNeal, the company training noncommissioned officer and organizer of the event, gave an in-depth informational brief on drug prevention for children. McNeal also stressed the significance of her class, "As a mother of one small child, I believe in the importance of parental awareness for drug prevention. Stopping drug abuse starts with our children."

Spc. Corey Sinnott informed Soldiers with a detailed presentation on marijuana titled, "How Much of a Gamble?" His briefing incorporated facts about marijuana users and the detrimental affects on their immune systems and higher rates of cancer compared to non-users. He also provided information on the hormonal effects of marijuana usage, lower testosterone levels for men, and disrupted hormone production for women.

Spc. Michael Easley led discussions on the use and production of methamphetamines.

Staff Sgt. Alicia Scott, the Human Resources NCOIC for 1st Space Battalion, referred to her personal experience during the discussion, "I tried to purchase cold medicine at Walgreens and had to provide my ID card for verification of my age. I also learned that certain medications can only be purchased in limited quantities." Colorado Springs restricts cold medication purchases, a key ingredient to methamphetamine production.

In the last class, Spc. Jason Cotto educated Soldiers on the abuse of ecstasy. Cotto cautioned, "Even a small amount of ecstasy can be toxic enough to poison the nervous system and cause irreparable damage." Most Soldiers were surprised to learn that ecstasy is sometimes mixed with substances such as rat poison and can trigger death with causes ranging from dehydration and exhaustion to heart attacks.

After a brief discussion on the definition of alcoholism and alcohol abuse by Sgt. Tonya Castorena, a speaker from the Alcoholics Anonymous organization shared his story. His abuse started with casual drinking at his home, work, social settings, and progressed in a downward spiral to significant alcohol abuse. "Alcohol abuse affects not only the abuser, but their families. It also greatly affects unit efficiency," the speaker warned.

1st Sgt. Allen Kirkpatrick identified with the speaker's candid remarks, "Our Soldiers need to understand that drinking can lead to unstable family relations, health issues, lack of progression for their careers, and, at worst, dismissal from the Army."

Upon the completion of the class, McNeal presented the speaker with a 1st Space Battalion coin and a Company Certificate of Appreciation.

By the end of the morning, Soldiers held a better understanding of drug prevention and alcohol abuse. Sgt. 1st Class John Pitzen commented, "The training was very beneficial for Soldiers. The Alcoholics Anonymous speaker provided an especially sincere and informative brief."

As a parting gift and reminder, McNeal handed out key chains sporting a cartoon animal with the slogan, "Don't Monkey with Drugs!" The presentations and discussions, however, served as the lasting impression for HHC Soldiers.

Safety

Keep fire in its place

With cold weather approaching, more people will be lighting up their fireplaces, both for the warmth and cozy atmosphere they provide. The National Safety Council offers these suggestions for using your fireplace safely:

- Make sure your fireplace was constructed to be used for burning fuel and not just for decoration.
- Never burn coal, charcoal or any type of polyurethane in a fireplace. The combustion of these products creates carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas.
- Always open the damper before lighting the fire, and keep it open until the ashes are cool.
- Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter fluid, or any other flammable liquid to light a fire; vapors from these products can explode.
- Don't combine or add an artificial log to a natural wood fire. This could cause a flare up.
- Don't poke artificial logs — the flaming wax may stick to the poker and drop onto the floor or carpet. Poking a log could also result in a flare-up.
- If you use homemade newspaper logs, never soak them in gasoline or flammable liquids; this can cause an explosion.
- Don't overload the fireplace; large fires can lead to overheating of the wall and roofing materials.
- Always use a fire screen that completely covers the fireplace opening.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before retiring for the evening or leaving the house.
- Store wood in a protected, dry area before burning. A six month storage period is desirable; the drier the wood, the more evenly it burns.
- Know what type of wood you are burning. Pine and other soft woods burn quickly and are good for kindling. Denser woods, such as oak, burn slowly and give long-lasting fires.

Even if you follow all these precautions, a fire could still get out of hand. Keep a fire extinguisher handy, install smoke detectors in your home, and plan and practice with the whole family on how to escape your home in case of a fire.

Good housekeeping can prevent accidents, injuries

SMDC/ARSTRAT
Safety Office

In the workplace, "good housekeeping" isn't the name of a magazine that awards a seal of approval. Instead, it's the term used for keeping the workplace clean, neat and free of hazards that can cause injury. This isn't just a matter of appearance; it is a serious safety issue.

Some of the more common hazards associated with poor housekeeping practices:

- Slips, trips and falls are caused by leaving things on the floor that don't belong there (boxes, paper clips, piles of scraps, spilled liquid, hoses, electrical cords, etc.).
- Injuries, such as bruises, broken bones and even concussions, can occur when heavy objects, such as tools or boxes, are left on the edge of a surface or piled carelessly, so that they can easily fall.
- Cuts, punctures and splinters can be the result of leaving sharp-edged or pointed tools in the wrong place or by failing to clean up and discard broken or damaged items.
- Electrical hazards can be caused from overloaded circuits or damaged electrical cords.
- Fire overload — excessive amounts of paper, boxes and other combustible material feeds the fire making the sprinkler system incapable of putting the fire out.

Practicing good housekeeping goes a long way toward preventing injuries and accidents, and there are advantages to good housekeeping. A neat, clean workplace makes it easier to find things, which saves time and increases productivity. It's a more pleasant place to work, which improves morale, but remember, a real reason for good housekeeping is safety.

Everyone should make it a habit to follow these good housekeeping rules:

- Always keep floors clear of anything that can cause a slip, trip or fall.
- Don't leave boxes, electrical cords or other objects out in the middle of passageways.
- Clean up all liquid spills immediately.
- Loose or damaged floor boards or tiles should be reported, so they can be repaired.
- When you're through using an item or piece of equipment, put it back where it belongs.
- Don't leave heavy objects or sharp tools where they can easily fall and cause a contact injury or puncture wound.
- Discard broken items that have jagged edges.
- Avoid fires by constantly being alert to electrical safety problems and filing/disposing of papers, boxes and other combustible materials.

Good housekeeping is everyone's responsibility. Don't assume that someone else is going to clean up a mess or take the proper precautions. Make it your business to remove hazards from the workplace.

Practicing good housekeeping is really very easy, once you've made it a habit. It only takes a few seconds to put things away properly or to clean up potentially hazardous conditions. These few seconds are well worth it if they prevent a serious injury. And, you'll discover you work faster and better in a clean workplace.

Army Astronaut kicks ISS up a not

By DJ Montoya
SMDC/ARSTRAT
Public Affairs

Williams is photographed during an individualized portion of a productive 5-hour, 54-minute excursion, which he shared For part of the spacewalk, the pair worked closely in tandem, and then worked separately, getting ahead of their timelin

Orbiting at 220 miles above the Earth's surface in a 404,069-pound, 15,000-cubic-foot environment is the Army's first active duty Soldier to serve on the International Space Station. Col. Jeffrey N. Williams, head of the Army's NASA Astronaut Detachment, is fast completing his six-month tour of duty onboard the craft. Williams has been keeping busy as the station's primary flight engineer and science officer as part of Expedition 13, since his arrival back in March of this year.

The native of Winter, Wis., has been kept busy as part of a two-man crew with Russian Cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov, commander of Expedition 13, on board the ISS. Now with German astronaut Thomas Reiter, second flight engineer, brought on board during July's Shuttle Discovery mission, the ISS is back up to its normal three-person crew.

During these past six months, Williams has been kept busy on board the ISS with major accomplishments that have included two space walks.

The first occurred with Vinogradov on June 1 as they repaired a station's oxygen-producing Elektron unit and retrieved a number of scientific experiments during a six-hour and 31-minute spacewalk — just 13 minutes shy of Williams' first space walk during the STS 101 mission back in May 2000.

The second extravehicular activity (EVA) came on Aug. 3 when he and Reiter performed a number of tasks outside the space station, again focusing on repairs and retrieval of scientific experiments.

The procedures were so successful that Mission Control came up with more tasks for Williams and Reiter to perform during their five-hour and 54-minute venture. This marked the third EVA for both astronauts.

But EVAs are only part of the mission for Williams.

An ordinary day on board for this Soldier is scripted at best. Take for example Aug. 17.

The day began with the morning inspection, then breakfast followed by a work preparation assessment. Next was a set up of video equipment for a scheduled Dust and Aerosol Measurement Feasibility Test session. However a broken HEPA filter was discovered and the DAFT operations for the day were cancelled.

Williams then moved on to some troubleshooting of the Anomalous Long-Term Effects on Astronaut experiment and a noise level measurement prior to installation of new noise suppression equipment before performing one of two physical exercise routines for the day totaling two and a half hours.

After transferring the data from the crew's exercise sessions Williams took part in a live interactive televised event with students from Wright Middle School for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee, Nashville, Tenn.

Following this the crew had lunch and Williams restored the onboard video configuration in the Lab before moving on to performing a scheduled lens change on the Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle School Students (EarthKAM) system at the Lab science window.

Oh, forgot to mention, there was the replacement of three hoses on a water processing system performed by Williams. This was followed by a questionnaire and journal entry on behavioral issues associated with isolation and confinement then onto the afternoon physical exercise session. With evening coming on it was show time again but this time for the entire crew of Williams, Reiter and Vinogradov as they offered their salute and best wishes on the 60th anniversary of the S.P. Korolev Rocket & Space Corporation Energia via a live televised broadcast followed by dinner, pre-sleep, and of course sleep.

As Williams put it in an early side journal after arriving on board, "There is little routine about the daily 'routine' on ISS.

"Every day is different with different challenges. The planners have estimated that it takes almost three people just to run and maintain the station. I now believe it."

There have been memorable moments to include his arrival to the station and spending several days with fellow astronaut retired Army Col. Bill McArthur, commander for Expedition 12, back in early April and their scheduled video teleconference with the Army's Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker. This event was the first time the Army, in conjunction with NASA, had provided a live-stream video broadcast world-wide over its Army's Media Player from the ISS much less Space.

Other memorable moments included a Memorial Day Message from Williams and his participation in the Army's "Call to Duty — Boots on the Ground" campaign during the Army's 231st Birthday celebration on June 14 where he said, "I am honored to be called a Soldier and to serve our country with you. Your professionalism and competence has made our Army the best yet since my dog tags were issued nearly 30 years ago."

Fun times have also included "BAM!" gourmet cuisine tasting opportunity during a recent down-link session with the renowned Chef Emeril Lagasse as the crew sampled several gourmet creations sent up on the shuttle Discovery.

Williams told Lagasse, "We sampled the food and especially enjoyed the jambalaya and the kicked up mashed potatoes ... in particular, the extra spiciness."

One of the many ISS onboard duties Williams has enjoyed is the photography portion or what he calls "Earth observation."

"You can never tire of looking at the part of God's creation we call Earth. Traveling around the globe every 90 minutes provides lots of opportunity to view the geography, oceans, cloud formations, sunrises and sunsets, thunderstorms, city lights, and many other things in vivid detail."

Images, which now exceed 248,000 to include those from past ISS missions, are provided by the Crew Earth Observations experiment and the Image Science and Analysis Group at the Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston. The International Space Station Program supports the laboratory to help astronauts take pictures that will be of the greatest value to scientists and the public, and to make those images freely available on the Internet. Additional images taken by astronauts and cosmonauts can be viewed at the NASA/JSC Gateway to Astronaut Photography of Earth.

ch … BAM!

Photos courtesy of NASA

l with European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter. he, thus enabling the two to tack on extra tasks.

Williams and the crew hold the record for the reatest number of Earth images taken by any tation mission.

He even had the honor of announcing America's ext generation of human Spacecraft — Orion.

The last major job for Williams and crew aboard he station during this mission came on Sept. 11 ith the arrival of STS-115. The crew of the tlantis delivered new and important pieces for nstallation onto the frame of the ISS. He assisted stronaut Steve MacLean with assembly operations.

As the time approached for the end of Expedition 3 with a return back to Earth, Williams felt he and he crew contributed to a successful mission on oard the ISS. During a pre-flight interview back in ebruary, Williams was asked how he came to the ecision of becoming an astronaut.

"It wasn't until later on, after high school when I ent to the military academy at West Point, and I ot introduced to Army aviation and read Tom Volfe's book, "The Right Stuff," that I realized it ould be possible and set it as a goal."

After West Point and his first operational ssignment he began putting his applications ogether.

"It was 1985, when I wrote the first application. I nterviewed in 1987; but wasn't selected. I kept pplying, and interviewed again in '92. I wasn't elected; kept applying, and finally, interviewed gain in '96 and I finally wore 'em down."

His advice to those in the Army wanting to ecome astronauts or having any goal in mind is to e persistent.

"In fact, any major goal that somebody has in life – I encourage them to be persistent. Don't give up; ake the disappointments, learn from them, drive on nd continue working toward that goal."

Astronaut, Army Col. Jeffrey N. Williams, Expedition 13 NASA space station science officer and flight engineer, uses a camera to photograph the topography of a point on Earth from the nadir window (an optical-quality glass window that points directly toward Earth's surface) in the Destiny laboratory of the International Space Station.

European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Thomas Reiter (left), Expedition 13 flight engineer; cosmonaut Pavel V. Vinogradov, commander representing Russia's Federal Space Agency; and astronaut, Army Col. Jeffrey N. Williams, NASA space station science officer and flight engineer, join Chef Emeril Lagasse for a special call in the Destiny laboratory of the International Space Station. Earlier the crew tasted several of his gourmet creations, delivered to the station by the Space Shuttle Discovery in July.

Williams watches a tomato float freely in the Destiny laboratory of the International Space Station.

SMD Conference completes its 9th successful exhibition

By Giselle Bodin
SMDC/ARSTRAT
Public Affairs

Photo by Dottie White

Lt. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commanding general, SMDC/ARSTRAT, and Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) speak to Col. David Cox, deputy director, Future Warfare Center, SMDC/ARSTRAT, as they tour the South Hall exhibits.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition took place Aug. 14-17 at the Von Braun Center here. The conference, in its ninth annual celebration, had a theme this year of "Global Missions ... Meeting the Challenges." The conference included military, government, academia and industry presenters who provided the latest information in the areas of global ballistic missile defense system development and operation, emerging technologies, and integration of cruise missile defense.

Notable speakers included Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering III, director, Missile Defense Agency; Lt. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; Maj. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, chief of staff, U.S. Strategic Command; Maj. Gen. James B. Armor, Jr., director, National Security Space Office; Rear Adm. Alan B. Hicks, commander and program director, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense; and Mr. Gil Nolte of the National Security Agency.

Besides the line-up of impressive presentations, the SMD Conference offered an extensive amount of exhibits and other free learning opportunities. For the first year ever, the SMD Conference and Exhibition took up the entire Von Braun Center for conference activities.

Also, for 2006, the recorded attendance was almost 1,300 attendees, with nearly half of them registering from out of state. There were also approximately 3,300 exhibitors and another 1,200 walk-in visitors. The global technology lectures and other free educational presentations drew in a crowd of more than 1,500 people as well. There were members of the press present from local, national and international publications.

This year definitely marked a record high of total participants on site — a great sign of the growth and importance of the space and missile defense community to a variety of audiences.

Mayor Loretta Spencer of Huntsville was on hand daily, and Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) showed his support of this event as a speaker.

The exhibit portion of the conference also showed tremendous growth as the conference filled all three halls. Nearly 300 different exhibiting organizations participated in this year's event.

The conference had several new elements this year. A variety of Global Technology Lectures took place for the first time, free of charge to all participants, and covered a wide array of topics such as systems engineering, weather reporting and management of technology. There were specific programs for Army Space Professionals and briefings tailored to spouses and visitors that provided information on the Tennessee Valley community and its growth.

There were celebrity book signings and presentations by famous individuals such as Billy Waugh, author of "Hunting the Jackal," and retired astronaut Mike Mullane.

Displays included interesting artifacts from the Cold War Museum, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, as well as the world's most valuable chopper, the Liberty Bike.

The 2007 SMD Conference is scheduled for Aug. 13-16, 2007. Plans are already underway for another successful conference in 2007. All of the South Hall exhibit floor space has been reserved, and much of the North Hall has already been claimed as well.

If you are interested in exhibiting in 2007, please contact Catherine Boykin at cboykin@scsonline.com. Additional information for the 2007 event will be added to the Web site at www.smdconf.org as next year's conference draws closer.

Test Program

continued from page 9

instrumentation available, and additional mobile instrumentation to characterize the experiments."

"[Our program integrator] looked ahead and projected potential threats that might need to be addressed in the future, and our customers determined the data they needed for their defense system," Creekmore said. "Then we would fly those experiments and collect the data the customer required."

As mission director for the Aerial Dispersion Experiment, or ADE, in 2003, Creekmore said the ADE campaign was a series of four flight tests using liquid propellant missiles to characterize the resulting debris footprint after ground impact. The missiles left a 25-foot-deep and 40-foot-wide crater and completely disintegrated.

"My job was to manage the program. The team would fly the systems and collect the data." After an initial assessment a few hours after the mission and the quick-look assessment about 48 hours later, the data was delivered to the customer for detailed analysis, Creekmore said.

Eve Swaim is chief of the Ballistic Missile Technical Analysis Division of the Offensive Systems Office at the DIA/Missile and Space Intelligence Center. She worked with the measurements program team at SMDC/ARSTRAT as an engineer. "We've had an excellent working relationship for many years," she said. "Although we were customers, the team always treated us as integral team members.

"Together we had many successful tests, with high-quality data."

The mission continues

As the scope of the measurements program grew, the command formed a group of subject matter experts to perform trade studies, refine requirements and analyze data. Like the measurements program, this group's name has evolved over time and is presently called the Applied Data Analysis Center, or ADAC.

"It has two segments — a radar group led by MIT/LL and an optics group led by Teledyne Solutions, Inc.," said Barbara Cantrell, the lead for flight test planning and analysis.

"Both are managed by SMDC for MDA/DV to support decision architecture algorithm development," she said.

ADAC is currently performing FTC-2 analysis for presentation to the missile defense community at a conference next January, Cantrell added.

Romero said now that the measurements program has transferred to MDA, SMDC/ARSTRAT's Technical Center continues to explore new areas where their test expertise directly supports the warfighter.

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November 2005

National Guard Space Company gains warfighting status

By Sharon L. Hartman
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The 217th Space Company, a unit of the 193rd Space Battalion, Colorado Army National Guard, was formally activated as a TO&E (Table of Organization and Equipment) unit during a ceremony Oct. 23, making it the first warfighting company in the history of space operations in the Army National Guard. The activation took place after a change of command ceremony in which Capt. Angie Tofflemeyer relinquished command of the original company, which had a TDA (Table of Distribution and Allowances) designation, to Capt. George O'Neill.

Some of the space tools the company brings to the front are satellite communications, and imagery to assist with combat operations, homeland defense and even humanitarian aide. During Tofflemeyer's command, the company's Commercial Exploitation Team deployed to Bahrain where they currently provide critical space support to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa in support of coalition forces on the Arabian Sea, and have provided support to earthquake relief operations in Pakistan. Soldiers from the company's Army Space Support Teams have deployed to Iraq, Korea and Japan and in recent months deployed in support of hurricane relief operations in the Gulf Coast and Atlantic regions of the United States.

"In the past few weeks, the 1st Satellite Control Battalion reflagged as the 53rd Signal Battalion, the 1st Space Battalion recently activated the 4th Space Company, and the Army's 1st Space Brigade lost the 'provisional' qualifier," Lt. Col. Scot Cuthbertson, commander of the 193rd Space Battalion, said. There is much significance in the activation of the 217th Space Company at the same time as these active Army units. The activation of this company demonstrates that we in the Army National Guard are indeed partnered with and stand shoulder to shoulder with our brethren in the active Army in the current and future warfights, and are indeed an integral part of Army space operations."

Ninth interceptor missile for homeland defense emplaced

(Missile Defense Agency press release)

The ninth interceptor designed to intercept and destroy long-range ballistic missiles was emplaced Sept. 18, 2005, in an underground silo located in the second missile field at Fort Greely, Alaska. It is the seventh for Fort Greely. Six interceptors were emplaced in 2004 in the first missile field at Greely, and two additional interceptors are emplaced at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The interceptors are part of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The BMDS is an integrated system of sensors, ground and sea-based radars and an advanced command and control, battle management and communication system designed to detect, track and launch an interceptor to destroy a target warhead before it can reach its intended target in any of the 50 states. When the system becomes operational, it will mark the first time the United States will have the capability to defend the entire country against a limited attack by a long-range ballistic missile.

Courtesy photo

The seventh interceptor missile is lowered into its silo at the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska, Sept. 18, 2005. The interceptor is designed to destroy incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles before they reach U.S. airspace.

Secretary Harvey thanks Army astronaut for service

By Staff Sgt. Carmen L. Burgess
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a video teleconference while orbiting 250 miles above the earth's atmosphere Oct. 28, 2005, a former Army aviator shared with the Army's senior leader how his military experience developed him for his role as a NASA astronaut.

Retired Col. Bill McArthur shared with Secretary of teh Army Francis Harvey that his experience flying helicopters and being a test pilot helped him develop the needed skills for his current assignment as commander of Expedition 12 on the International Space Station.

McArthur left Earth Sept. 30, 2005, for a six-month mission aboard NASA's largest, most complex international scientific project in history. While aboard, his duties as science officer will include long-term projects on human biological studies on how to keep astronauts fit both physically and neurologically.

He and the only other crew member, Russian astronaut Valery Tokarev, are also preparing for a space walk in two weeks — it will be the first one done without a space shuttle present since the Columbia accident in 2003. Next week will mark the fifth anniversary of continued human presence on the ISS.

Harvey expressed his appreciation to McArthur's previous and current service to the nation as both a Soldier and astronaut. The astronaut shared with the secretary that he carries a Warrior Ethos engraved dog tag given to him by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston.

"I want you to know that I have it in orbit with me as a token of my love and affection for all our young Soldiers and as a reminder of all the sacrifices they are making in the Global War on Terrorism," he said. "If there's any small thing that we can do up here to serve the Soldiers fighting down there, we'll do it."

December 2005

Space One Semi Automated Forces Co-Development Lab opens

By Alesya Paschal and Jacob Birmingham, Future Warfare Center

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — "Beam me up Scotty" may not be too far off with the opening of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Space One Semi Automated Forces Co-Development Lab here Dec 13.

The Army's soon-to-be released next generation Computer Generated Forces, OneSAF (March 2006), can synthetically lay down forces across the globe. This co-development lab will add space capabilities to the OneSAF model, allowing SMDC to take our current capabilities and assets from space and drop them into the hands of Soldiers.

The concept of using space assets, such as satellites, to project entities and military forces into a common operating picture is becoming a reality in his synthetic world. What seems to be a distant asset to the battlefield and simulation training devices is quickly becoming an immediate support capability for the Soldier.

OneSAF is the Army's composable, next generation CGF capable of representing a full range of operations, systems and control processes from individual combatant and platform to battalion level, with a variable level of fidelity that supports all modeling and simulation domains. It will accurately and effectively represent specific activities of ground warfare (engagement and maneuver), Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence, combat support, and combat service support. It will also employ appropriate representations of the physical environment and its effect on simulated activities and behaviors.

SMDC will manage the Space Co-Development Lab for OneSAF and will integrate space-enabled capabilities with the Army's next generation CGF simulation, OOS (OneSAF Objective System).

SMDC has established the Space OOS Co-Development Lab as a result of the Space M&S Focus Area Collaborative Team findings that space is poorly represented in Army M&S. The FACT has determined the space requirements for Army simulation and identified relevant Space M&S activities requiring modification.

Many of these activities focus on OOS, so SMDC stood up an OOS Co-Development Lab in August 2005 to aid in the development of these Space M&S improvements.

The Space OOS Co-Development Lab

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consists of Integrated Development Environment servers, development workstations, DOORS for configuration management, and support simulations that include Space Server, Advanced Warfighting Simulation and Composer. Both Linux and Windows versions of OOS are available.

Space-developed OOS components will be submitted into the OOS baseline in coordination with PEO STRI Orlando site.

The lab will also provide access to OOS for demonstrations and training activities.

49th Color Guard teaches brownie troop flag etiquette

By Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III
Unit reporter

FORT GREELY, Alaska – Soldiers from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) Color Guard took time to teach a local Brownie Girl Scout Troop about flag etiquette Nov. 15.

The 15 girls from Brownie Troop 94 (the farthest northern council) have meetings every week. The girls, ages 6 – 8, work in groups to explore their community. The meetings center around friendship, fun and age-appropriate activities.

The group leaders give the girls opportunities to make decisions about activities they participate in and learn leadership skills within the group. The flag etiquette class teaches Brownies the importance of patriotism and respect.

"We want to instill patriotism in our girls," said Karen Reyher, troop leader. "We plan to have the girls post the colors at every meeting, so it is important for them to learn the proper etiquette when in the presence of the flag."

Many of the girls in Troop 94 have already been taught to respect the flag because they are children of Soldiers. America Carson, 7, is one of those girls. America has been in the Brownies for two years and is the daughter of Sgt. Robert Carson, military police officer, 49th Missile Defense Battalion.

"I liked when they (the color guard) taught us to hold the flag," America said. "The color guard also taught us to show respect for the flag by being quiet and standing up when the flag passes by."

The 49th Color Guard was invited to the Brownies' ceremony when the girls will first used the skills they learned during their time with the Soldiers.

The flags Troop 94 uses were donated by Fort Greely Moral, Welfare and Recreation.

Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

Spc. Duane Ostrowski, color guard member, answers Brownies' questions about flag etiquette during a color guard class at Fort Greely Nov. 15.

KRS reaches without-a-lost-time injury milestone

By Mig Owens
Kwajalein Hourglass

A wise sergeant once told Col. Beverly Stipe, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site commander, "Accidents hurt. Safety doesn't. And being safe is like breathing. You don't ever want to stop."

As the installation commander, and the island's official safety officer, it's Stipe's job to promote active and aggressive safety programs that teach the work force to operate in this dangerous environment.

"There is no worse excuse in leadership than a failure or breakdown of good and enforceable safety habits," she said. "And no accident is unavoidable if we place the right amount of focus and attention on everything we do."

Kwajalein Range Services' and USAKA's approach to safety has paid major dividends over the past three years with significant improvement in safety performance, according to John Feldman, KRS safety manager.

On Nov. 8, KRS achieved a major milestone — 4,000,000 hours continually worked (almost a year) without a lost-time injury. He added that all employees should be congratulated for their efforts.

"Occupational injuries requiring medical treatment greater than first aid, known as OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health] recordables, are down 84 percent. KRS injury rates are 88 percent below industry averages according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data," Feldman said.

Mike Moore, Safety and Occupational Health manager for USAKA, functions as the principal staff advisor and technical consultant to Stipe on safety and occupational health issues. "USAKA has not had a serious military or government employee accident for over a year and a half on either Kwajalein or Roi-Namur," Moore said.

He explained that events such as Safety Day, held Oct. 15 on Kwajalein and Nov. 19 on Roi-Namur, help people to learn more about what it takes to come to work healthy and return home the same way.

"Safety encompasses many elements: training, protective equipment, attitudes, behaviors, low to high-risk work activities, analysis and team work to keep people from getting hurt," Moore said.

Technical Center gets new director

By Dottie White
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command hired a new director for the Techncial Center effective Dec. 11.

Dr. Rodney Robertson, who was selected for the position, returns to SMDC/ARSTRAT after being detailed to the Program Executive Office Missiles and Space where he was the director of Joint Single Integrated Air Picture and System of Systems.

Prior to the effective date of the detail early in February 2005, Robertson was assigned to SMDC as the director of the Test and Evaluation Directorate, Technical Center.

Photo by Dottie White

From his new office, Dr. Rodney Robertson settles in and prepares to perform his duties as the new director of the Technical Center at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command in Huntsville, Ala.

January 2006

SMDC/ARSTRAT, MDA employees learn about Huntsville, nearby area

By Diane Schumacher
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — "Be sure to take advantage of all the information available. Ask questions," said Lt. Gen. Henry A. "Trey" Obering III, director of the Missile Defense Agency, as he welcomed employees and family members from MDA and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Jan. 10 shortly before Tennessee Valley business and community representatives began their first briefings on what area communities have to offer.

"We [MDA] want you to make an intelligent decision, based upon information, not ignorance," Obering said, adding, "I don't want to influence you because I'm from Alabama and I think it's a pretty good place."

More than 500 military members, civilian employees, and family members from MDA and SMDC/ARSTRAT attended one-hour briefings— presented four times over two days— followed by an opportunity to visit exhibits featuring a plethora of information about real estate, education, medical care and employment in the Tennessee Valley. Representatives from each community offered fact sheets and brochures that focused on the benefits associated with moving to those areas.

Dave Hargrove, Bell South communications regional manager, spoke about state of the art medical and hospital care and emergency services. He cited information including the state and local per capita income, which is 8.7 percent/Alabama vs. 10.15 percent/National vs. 12.2 percent for Washington, D.C.

"Alabama does not tax retirement income of military and federal civilian retirees, nor does Tennessee," he said,

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Photo by Marco Morales

Deputy Manager for Ballistic Missile Defense Systems, Kevin Parker, surveys a variety of printed materials about the town of Athens and its surroundings while another attendee discusses the town with one of its representatives.

adding there are numerous job opportunities for postretirement job seekers.

Hargrove advised attendees to check out additional information at the following Web site: www.tennesseevalley.org.

Huntsville City has public schools that offer distance learning and has academies and magnate schools offering academics and arts, science and foreign languages, preengineering, and other specialties. Information may be found at www.huntsvillecityschools.net.

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, Alabama State Board of Education, gave encouraging information for prospective newcomers who have children in kindergarten through high school. She said student-toteacher class sizes are relatively small in Alabama schools and that enrollment is at about 800 students for most schools. She suggested participants visit the following Web site: www.alsde.edu.

Caylor also stated that in 2005, The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation cited Alabama as the best state across the Nation for academic and history standards and placed Alabama in the best top-five states for English standards, and in the best top-six states for math standards. For information about the Fordham Foundation see Web site: www.edexcellence.net.

Lynn Kilgore, representative for the Huntsville-Madison county builders association, and Stephen Perkins, representative for the Huntsville area association of realtors, discussed housing and home building respectively, within the Tennessee Valley area. "Some apartment communities offer an equity program where some portion of the rental fee is returned to the renter when that person decides to buy a home; the returned fees are placed as part of the down payment on the home," said Kilgore.

Perkins stated that individual homes are affordable.

"Homes can run between $200,000 up to $700,000; however, the average really is more like $150,000," Perkins said.

Lee Sentell, Alabama State Department of Tourism and Travel, began his presentation with a humorous video — a TV ad — highlighting how great the sunshine, beaches and relaxation are in Alabama. He followed that with another humorous video advertising inexpensive golf fees. He advised attendees visit the Web site: www.800alabama.com.

Complementing the presentations was SMDC's own Giselle Bodin from the Public Affairs Office. Bodin is a member of the Tennessee Valley Young Professionals and spoke on the interests as she sees them for young adults. She informed all young attendees that there's a fun nightlife for them, and the job and networking opportunities are great.

"I stay here because of the cost of living. I bought a home on a lake at age 24. Huntsville has big city potential but small town atmosphere. The sense of security is great and crime is low," Bodin said.

Missile Defense flight test successfully completed

(Missile Defense Agency Press release)

The director of the Missile Defense Agency, Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering, announced the successful completion of an important test involving the launch of an operationallyconfigured Ground-based Interceptor missile designed to protect the United States against a limited long-range ballistic missile attack.

The test, held Dec. 13, was primarily designed to evaluate the performance of the interceptor missile's rocket motor system and exoatmospheric kill vehicle, which is the component that collides directly with a target warhead in space to perform a "hit-tokill" intercept using only the force of the collision to totally destroy the target warhead. Initial indications are that the rocket motor system and kill vehicle performed well.

The flight test results will help to further improve and refine the performance of numerous Ground-based Midcourse Defense elements that will be used to provide a defense against the type of long-range ballistic missile that could be used to attack an American city with a weapon of mass destruction.

The interceptor missile was launched at approximately 3:04 p.m. (local time, Dec. 14); (10:04 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Dec. 13) from the Ronald Reagan Test Site, Republic of the Marshall Islands, in the central Pacific Ocean.

For this exercise, there was a simulated launch of a target missile from Kodiak, Alaska, using data from previous launches.

Photo courtesy of Boeing

This Ground-based Interceptor missile launches from the Ronald Reagan Test Site, Republic of the Marshall Islands, in the central Pacific Ocean during a flight test. It was designed to protect the United States against a limited long-range ballistic missile defense attack.

The test also successfully tested a wide variety of components and subcomponents as part of the evaluation of system performance, including improved missile silo support equipment, booster/kill vehicle separation, kill vehicle cryogenic sensor cooling, kill vehicle orientation and positioning, and several others.

The GMD system currently has seven interceptors deployed at Fort Greely, Alaska, and two at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

Other components of the GMD currently include the upgraded Cobra Dane radar in the Aleutian Island chain of Alaska and upgraded early warning radars at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., and at Fylingdales, United Kingdom.

Up to four forward deployed air-transportable X-band radars are also planned for the system, as well as an upgrade to the existing early warning radar at Thule Air Base in Greenland.

A new seabased X-band radar mounted aboard a large sea-going platform began its transit in November to its operating base at Adak, Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands. It will have the capability to operate in any ocean to support both operations and testing.

ARSST TEAM 2 Members deploy to Iraq

By Master Sgt. Dennis Beebe
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Army Space Support Team (ARSST) 2, a unit of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's 1st Space Battalion is headed to Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, to provide space support to the Multi National Corps, Iraq (MNCI), in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This team is deploying to Iraq to fight the war on terror, which is our nation's number one priority," said Lt. Col. Lee Gizzi, 1st Space Battalion commander.

"The rest of us here in Colorado Springs, whether it is the 1st Space Battalion or the 1st Space Brigade, have the responsibility of fully supporting the needs of our forward deployed Soldiers. Whatever their support requirements are, we will meet them."

Currently, the 18th Airborne Corps has the mission in Iraq until V Corps, with ARSST 2 attached, takes over in January 2006.

While deployed, the ARSST will provide space support to the combatant commander in several ways. The team is an on-site capability that provides satellite imagery from both commercial and military sources. This includes the ability to produce 3-D fly-throughs and maps for both planners and operators. The team keeps a constant watch on space weather and the effects it can have on space-based platforms.

The team also deploys with its own independent communications system, providing extensive reach back to space forces, organizations and analysis centers within theater or back to the United States.

In preparing the team to deploy, Gizzi reiterated the Warrior Ethos and charged

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the team with living it.

"This is not a war like we have ever seen in previous times, where you seize terrain and gain ground," said Gizzi. "It is a war of attrition. I want to ensure that the guys in charge, Maj. Robinson and Staff Sgt. McCoy, make sure the team does not take shortcuts, and that they adhere to what is important and what is right, and that they bring their team home intact. I have the utmost confidence in their abilities, and I look forward to greeting Team two at the end of their tour," Gizzi said.

February 2006

Command implements Army safety awareness initiative

By Marco Morales
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Safety awareness is everyone's job. It cuts across all levels of a person's daily surroundings whether it's crossing a busy intersection as a pedestrian in a large city or enjoying an outing like hiking in the woods, or getting to and from work in a privately owned vehicle such as a motor-cycle. Safety becomes a key factor for Soldiers, civilian Employees, or family members — with regard for each of their roles in life — be it tactical, technical professional, or supportive.

At U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, safety awareness programs will become more visible in the near future, so much so, the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker stated "... all [Army] leaders will include safety programs and tasks in their evaluation report support forms and counseling sessions."

Schoomaker recently addressed all general officers in the Army via an urgent electronic message, stating that "the Secretary of Defense challenged the Services to reduce accidents by 50 percent by the end of fiscal year 2005. Our target was 101 mishap fatalities, but we actually suffered 302 Soldier deaths due to accidents. These losses represent a significant impact on our combat power, and many could have been prevented with good leadership."

And SMDC/ARSTRAT hasn't been exempt from being part of these Army-wide "fatalities and accidents." Command Sgt. Maj. David Lady, SMDC/ARSTRAT command sergeant major, spoke about how our Command will ensure our Soldiers and employees are involved in safety awareness programs.

"In the past year, we've lost one Soldier to a traffic accident, another Soldier to an alcohol-related stunt. It has not affected the mission but it has affected their units, their fellow Soldiers, and their families. And that's what we've got to work to fix," Lady said.

"In general I would say our safety record is good. We're a very small command. The loss of one Soldier — if we're looking at statistics — sends our statistics absolutely haywire," he said. "I don't care about statistics and I don't believe the CG really cares about the statistics as such.

What we care about is preserving lives," he said.

"The safety record, given regular deployments of our detachments, the 24/7 missions conducted by our satellite control companies, our theater missile warning companies, the GMD Brigade and Battalion — in extremely harsh conditions if we look at Fort Greely in the winter — is an excellent one with regard to 'on mission' incidents," Lady said. "And that's attributable to small unit leadership and Soldier common sense.

"What is of concern and marks us as not 'head and shoulders above' other Army units is the off-duty related incidents involving traffic and alcohol consumption. We're not 'better' than other organizations merely because we've had statistically fewer of those incidents," Lady said.

Schoomaker's message further spelled out how leaders in the Army, from top to bottom, will raise safety awareness.

"We can't afford to let this become a 'check the box' requirement. Leaders must determine how their unit and Soldiers 'fit' into programs and campaigns organized and promoted by The Combat Readiness Center. Leaders should take these broad agendas and translate them into specific tasks and objectives suitable for their unit and mission. This safety accountability focus at the leader level, and counseling to see it placed squarely into all officer and NCO development, is vital to preserving our most precious resource, the Soldier."

Lady complimented Gen. Schoomaker's message on safety awareness in that all senior raters will pass their support forms down two levels in their chain of command.

"The appropriate level leader – first sergeant or company commander in the case of Soldiers assigned to one of our companies or detachments — command sergeants major, battalion or brigade commanders — in the case of more senior Soldiers in leadership positions — must meet with every new Soldier and conduct a formal reception counseling session," he said.

Lady says there is a need to educate the Soldier and civilian employee on the standards of the unit or organization. This is most effectively done on a one-on-one basis. "The thrust of General Dodgen's initiative on 'owning the edge' and making safety a more obvious part of our Soldiers' reception and integration into the Com-mand is to emphasize the high standards of the organization and the Soldier's responsibility for his or herself, the mission, and their buddies," Lady said.

"We are convinced that enforcement of safety standards begins with the leaders demonstrating and enforcing discipline. The only way that we can convey the critical nature of preserving your own life, your partner's life, and accomplishing the mission, is to come face to face with everyone – emphasize from the beginning," Lady said, adding, "This is not an additional program that we add to being a Soldier, this is fundamental to being a Soldier. Enforcing of safety standards while accomplishing missions is based on discipline, leader responsibility and good, self-and-mission awareness."

Patricia Vittitow, SMDC/ARSTRAT safety director, said our command has developed numerous performance objectives based on the CSA's message to the Army.

Soldiers and civilian employees may learn more about what SMDC/ARSTRAT is doing to "Own the Edge" on safety at: http://www.smdc.army.mil/SAFETY/Safety.html

March 2006

JFCC-IMD Operations Center opens

By Debra Christman
MDA JNIC Public Affairs

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A ribbon cutting for the opening of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense Operations Center was conducted at the Joint National Integration Center on Feb. 22. The commander of the JFCC-IMD, Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, hosted the event and Gen. James Cartwright, commander, U.S. Strategic Command, was the special guest speaker for the commemoration.

Dodgen introduced Cartwright by highlighting the USSTRATCOM commander's vision in dealing with the complexities of modern global defense capabilities and requirements. Cartwright ordered the standup of four JFCCs designed to allow USSTRATCOM to focus on strategic level integration and advocacy of their unified command plan assigned missions. In addition to JFCC-IMD, Cartwright authorized the stand-up of JFCCs for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JFCC-ISR); Network Warfare (JFCC-NW); Space and Global Strike (JFCC-SGS); and the Strategic Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (SCC-WMD).

The JFCC-IMD is responsible for meeting USSTRATCOM's Unified Command Plan responsibilities for planning, integrating, and coordinating global missile defense operations and support. JFCCIMD conducts the day-to-day operations of assigned forces and coordinates activities with associated combatant commands, other USSTRATCOM Joint Functional Components and the efforts of the Missile Defense Agency.

Additionally, the JFCC-IMD is required to interface with the Missile Defense Agency as an advocate between the missile defense developer and the warfighter. As a result, the decision was made to collocate the new organization with MDA's JNIC. This affords the two organizations to realize synergies, which allow rapid deployment of research, development, technical and engineering assets from test bed to warfighter as well as rapid implementation of technical resolutions in the field.

In his remarks, Cartwright said, "Vision is one thing and actualization is another ... this is a benchmark in time.

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Our test strategies are really producing right now, and we're in a very positive vector right now. We'll sit down with the combatant commanders after this ceremony in the first of many meetings to try to figure out how we will do this and how to handle and manage this global capability. This organization, the COCOMs, intelligence, reconnaissance and sensors will come together in a successful virtual environment to start to network together. We'll be operational this summer on a global footing. These are big tasks ... no doubt, among the functional components you are leading from the front. [We're building] something that the Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine can use to defend ... but you cannot rest on that ... this is a big job."

Dodgen concluded that JFCC-IMD would be a "center of excellence for missile defense," and acknowledged the critical teaming with MDA's JNIC.

The ceremony culminated with a ribbon cutting, a cake cutting, a brief in the Battle Lab, and a tour of the Intelligence Directorate and the Mission and Functions area.

FWC experiment to improve THAAD weapon system

By Giselle Bodin
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — On Feb. 16, the Future Warfare Center concluded a weeklong experiment conducted for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Project Office and the TRADOC System Manager (TSM) — Upper Tier (UT) to help improve the THAAD weapon system for the warfighter. The FWC's Battle Lab combined with the Software Engineering Directorate (SED) outside building 5220 here to provide a command post prototype that offers greater situational awareness.

Based on lessons learned from OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, the FWC did an analysis to develop the battle drill they conducted. This battle drill was designed by incorporating user requested requirements. This ensured that the system was the most efficient one for the warfighters who will use it.

"Basically, we're bridging the gap between the warfighter and the material developer to validate requirements for the THAAD Command Control System," said E. Paul Semmens, the cofounder of Imprimis, Inc., and the contractor lead for the THAAD command post.

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command's role in this project was to develop a flexible and agile command control laboratory to try new concepts that may benefit the Soldier. While SED maintains the THAAD fire control system and basic command control, SMDC/ARSTRAT maintains the situational awareness for this system.

The object of the experiment was to put these two elements of the system together and allow composite battalions from Fort Bliss, Texas, the opportunity to test the improvements.

They conducted the experiment in what was essentially a replica of a Fire Coordination Center. The Future Operations Center (FOC) Testbed was the network connectivity between everything, and the programs used to test the different elements of the system were AWarE (Advanced Warfare Environment) and TIGER (Tactically Integrated Geographical EnviRonment). "FWC is providing a collaborative environment to support the THAAD program office in the development of their future command post," said John Broussard, FWC project lead.

Maj. Angela Holmes, the government lead for the THAAD command post effort, said the Soldier support for this experiment came from the Fort Bliss TSM composite battalions. "Though the Missile Defense Agency will maintain ownership of the fire units, the Army will operate the system being tested in this experiment," she said.

The Soldiers involved in this experiment expressed enthusiasm at the collaborative efforts of SMDC/ARSTRAT and SED. Onsite, they used the equipment from the FOC Testbed to verify positions and validate tasks. From there, they assessed whether or not this was the concept they wanted to use, tested it, and provided feedback to the material developers. "SMDC and SED have been the prime organizations helping us in updating the system according to our recommendations and requests," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry Tarpley, a Soldier from the Fort Bliss TSM UT unit.

This experiment was the first of four scheduled for this year. There are also three more scheduled for 2007, including a flight test. Following each test, feedback from the Soldiers will be incorporated into the next development for the THAAD weapon system.

Photo by Giselle Bodin

Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Freeman and Sgt. Adam Grimm test FWC's situational awareness concepts to provide feedback on the construction of a new prototype THAAD command post.

April 2006

Courtesy photo

Vice chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff visits SMDC/ARSTRAT

Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the guest speaker at a summit luncheon for Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense in Huntsville, Ala., April 19.

Giambastiani, the nation's second highest ranking military officer, spoke on "Improving Government and Industry Collaboration for the Long War."

Following the luncheon, Giambastiani visited the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command at building 5220 on Redstone Arsenal for briefings with senior leaders.

GMD's Alpha Crew takes part in successful flight test

By Maj. Martin Bortolutti
GMD operator

SHREIVER AFB, Colo. — A successful flight test of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system occurred Feb. 23.

After two postponements, Flight Test 04-1 combined the efforts of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD)'s Alpha Crew at the Missile Defense Element, a Boeing-led industry team and the Missile Defense Agency.

"Everyday is a good day to be in GMD, but especially today — this flight test really helped endorse GMD's capabilities and role in our nation's defense against ballistic missile threats," said Staff Sgt. Jeremiah VanDorsten, Alpha Crew readiness officer.

The test demonstrated the capability of the newly upgraded radar located at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., confirming the radar's capability to track a long-range ballistic missile target launched from Kodiak, Alaska.

The Beale radar recently received hardware and software enhancements to enable it to precisely track and identify a threat missile's trajectory. The test resulted in a successful interception of the missile threat target.

"This test has affirmed the confidence of the brigade's warfighting crews to work hand in hand with both the Joint Program Office and the prime contractor, Boeing," said Lt. Col David Meakins, Alpha Crew director. "We are proud to have been the

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crew on duty to have executed the test. It was especially nice to have received personal appreciation and a coin from Brig. Gen. Patrick J. O'Reilly, the MDA joint program director."

This test also served as a rehearsal for a future flight test from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. During the future test, an operational interceptor is scheduled to be launched from a GMD site for the first time. Also, a target will be launched from Kodiak during the test. The test's objective is for the interceptor launched from VAFB to collect data on the missile threat target.

Boeing is the prime contractor for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system, which is the centerpiece of MDA's overall layered ballisticmissile defense architecture. Industry partners include Raytheon, Orbital Sciences and Northrop Grumman.

May 2006

Command receives award from NISH

By LuAnne Fantasia
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

According to the 2000 Census, only one-third of the 31 million United States residents between the ages of 21 and 64 who have disabilities are employed. Approximately 50 of those Americans are contractor employees in this command under the NISH program — a federal program designed to set up rehabilitation companies nationwide that make goods for or provide services to U.S. government organizations.

NISH recently selected the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/ U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command for its 2006 NISH Government Award for Services, citing that the command has a long list of ongoing activities in its promotion of employment for people with disabilities at all levels of the organization.

Michael Schexnayder and Mark Lumer attended the award banquet in Chicago early this month to accept the award for the command. Respectively, Schexnayder is the command's deputy director for research and development and Lumer is principal assistant responsible for contracting.

Lumer said that partnering with Phoenix Services in Huntsville, Ala., and Tresco, Inc., of Las Cruces, N.M., " ... is a winwin situation, because these companies have competitive salaries, good employees and low turnover.

"By working with Phoenix and Tresco, and other NISH firms, we have chosen to improve lives. The best day I ever had in procurement was the day we awarded contracts to Phoenix and Tresco.

"It's rare to meet someone who loves paying taxes, but I met a young man working for Tresco at White Sands [Missile Range] who is thrilled to have his first job ... his own apartment ... and paying taxes for the first time.

"We in the contracting office should never forget that our decision to award a contract changes lives," he added.

Garfield Boon Jr., deputy director of SMDC/ARSTRAT's Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, said the Army draw down a few years ago limited the command from filling employee vacancies.

"Six years ago this was an experiment. But, over time, this program has flourished and has provided opportunities for these employees to be part of our workforce. I think they're all happy to be here," Boon said.

NISH also recognized Boon with an individual outstanding contributions award for his efforts to promote and support employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities.

"We embraced this program and have fostered our relationship with the companies and the employees," Boon said. "It's a robust program, and the employees' transition into our workforce has been seamless."

Lumer feels the command was selected for this award because it allows disabled employees to stretch and learn more than expected.

"Generally jobs are food services and custodial, but we're unique in that we provide opportunities in administrative positions here in Huntsville and out at HELSTF [High Energy Laser System Test Facility]. The employees are filling all job positions — from administrative to logistics."

Lumer said the command is taking another step with a new initiative requiring a contractor of a major solicitation to either have a one percent disabled workforce, or one percent of their subcontracts go to NISH organizations.

Some of the founding agencies of NISH are Goodwill Industries International, the National Easter Seal Society and the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services, to name only a few.

Photo by Dottie White

John Lendeborg, Phoenix Service, works on files for the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office at SMDC/ARSTRAT. Lendeborg, a Manhatton, New York, native, has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia College.

Historic Command has first change of command

By Maj. Laura Kenney, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The nation's only missile defense brigade, with headquarters here, underwent its first change of top leadership April 18, as Col. Gary W. Baumann relinquished command to Col. Michael L. Yowell.

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, is at the forefront of the nation's emerging missile defense technology. The brigade, a multi-component unit, falls under the overall direction of Northern Command during an operational mission.

The assistant adjutant general of the Colorado Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Thomas D. Mills, hosted the ceremony. Baumann, first commander of the brigade, assisted in its formation prior to activation Oct. 16, 2003, in response to presidential directive. Lt. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commanding general, SMDC/ARSTRAT, presented Baumann the Legion of Merit for his role in establishing the historic unit.

Yowell assumed command in a traditional flag-passing ceremony held in the Air Force Space Command Auditorium. The former commander of the brigade's headquarters battery and the first to hold that position, Capt. Stephen Elisha, sang the Star Spangled Banner to open the ceremony.

The 100th Brigade, largely composed of Colorado Army National Guardsmen operating in their time-honored mission of defending the homeland, has interceptors located in Alaska and California. The brigade oversees the Soldiers operating the ground-based midcourse portion of the nation's emerging missile defense capability.

Baumann said, "It's going to be hard to stop thinking, 'missile defense, missile defense' 24/7, but at least I can sleep easily at night knowing that the unit has passed into the more than capable hands of its new commander. It was a true pleasure to be a part of bringing something so important to the American people. It's not every day one can say, 'I (the unit) protect(s) almost 300 million people.'"

Yowell approached the new challenge with enthusiasm. "We've come a long way since the days of Paul Revere awakening fellow citizens to the threat facing them," said Yowell. "With today's technology, we can now defend against a threat not even imaginable then. The unit will build on the outstanding foundation that Colonel Baumann has ensured, and I'm glad that I will assist it in doing so."

Yowell comes to the command immediately after graduating from the Missile Defense Operators Course. Branched Field Artillery, Yowell is a certified space operations officer, and served previously as the first commander of the 193rd Space Battalion, which frequently deploys space operators to Kuwait, Oman, and Iraq as well as to numerous exercises in Korea and the United States. He served as the Colorado Army National Guard deputy chief of staff for personnel prior to his assumption of command of the 100th.

June 2006

Marines conduct Stinger live-fire training on Meck

By Nell Drumheller
Editor, *The Kwajalein Hourglass*

Sixty Marines spent two days firing Stinger missiles at one-fifth scale radio controlled aerial targets on Meck Island, the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"Live-fire training is vitally important," said Maj. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Iwakuni, Japan, on Meck May 25. This was Trautman's first inperson viewing of Stinger live fire.

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Photo by Nell M. Drumheller

Sgt. Michael Knight, left, supports Cpl. Dennison Muczynski, in a live fire of a Stinger missile.

The Marines, from the 1st Stinger Battery, Okinawa, don't often have the opportunity to train live. Typically they train in simulators. To maintain their qualifications, they must shoot live once every three years, according to Battery Commander Maj. Matt Culbertson.

This is the first time the Marines have traveled to Kwajalein for this training. "It is a first-time event for RTS [Reagan Test Site], but the Marines do it on a regular basis. Last year, it was done on Wake Island," said Capt. Eric J. Everts, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, ICBM test director. "This unit is a Stinger Battery, and their wartime job is to shoot down enemy aircraft," the captain said.

Over the course of two days' training, they fired 48 surface-to-air Stinger missiles.

While most of the Low Altitude Defense gunners, or Stinger gunners, agreed that live training tops simulator training. Cpl. Dennison Muczynski summed it up, "It's the adrenaline rush." He said training in an air-conditioned simulator is not the same as training in the elements.

Training live builds confidence according to Lance Cpl. Michael Mariana, a Marine of three years from Ohio and a Stinger gunner. "You build confidence in your system, your team, battery and leadership."

What does the Marine training mean to the USAKA community? On his last visitto Kwajalein, Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, indicated that joint-service use of the USAKA/RTS facilities was vital.

"My mission for Master Sgt. Frank Cota upon his arrival earlier this year as the senior range NCO [noncommissioned officer] was to be creative and find customers who might be able to use our range," USAKA Commander Col. Beverly Stipe said. She added that service orientation (Air Force, Navy, Marines), did not matter in her request of Cota, as long as high quality testing or training environment could be assured.

Muczynski said the Marines appreciated the opportunity to come to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He added that part of the pre-deployment preparation was briefing the Marines on where they were going and on the historical importance of the Marshall Islands to the United States and the Marine Corps.

Simulation Center plays varsity in joint Homeland defense exercise

By LuAnne Fantasia
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Simulation Center was a heavy hitter in the simulated asymmetrical homeland defense training exercise — Amalgam Arrow 06-07.

With the 1st Air Force Homeland Defense Distributed Mission Operations at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in the lead, the NORAD-sponsored exercise proved that command and control skills for homeland integrated air defense can be trained through distributed, man-in-the-loop, virtual simulation — a requirement recognized immediately following Sept. 11, 2001.

"Man-in-the-loop, virtual simulation is, in all likelihood, the most promising venue for training multiple services and government agencies," said Army Col. Nanette Mueller, chief of air and missile defense in the command's G-3, or Operations.

It was at her request that the Simulation Center — part of the command's Future Warfare Center — developed and fielded virtual simulation capability.

"That is key to analyzing and training for the homeland air and cruise missile defense mission," said Lt. Col. Kevin Hathaway, program manager for the command's Distributed Mission Operations-Air Defense Artillery, or DMO-ADA.

Although players in the exercise were scattered nationwide, 12 distributed locations (including "Team Huntsville") participated in the exercise, to successfully manage simulated real-world emergencies, and simulate airborne threats against the homeland, according to Hathaway.

He said DMO-ADA currently provides a man-in-the-loop station that exercises every element of the National Capital Region's Joint Air Defense Operations Center, or JADOC.

"This is nearly as effective as receiving live training in the NCR, but more cost-effective," he said. "We simulated the JADOC."

Hathaway, a 25-year Army Reserve officer called up to active duty to spearhead these types of projects, said the complexity and atmosphere at the joint operations center in the nation's capital is tense, requiring Soldier skills quite the opposite of how they're normally taught to defend.

"Soldiers are trained to conduct missions on the battlefield with permissive command and control measures, i.e., we give them fields of fire, rules of engagement, and permission to engage within constraints," Hathaway said. "The JADOC mission requires restrictive command and control measures."

According to Hathaway, Soldiers of the 164th ADA of Florida's National Guard learned a whole new approach to using their weapons systems. "They learned to not shoot until told to do so through a very rigid control scheme."

Charlie Wilcox, project manager for the command's Simulation Center, is a contractor engineer with Madison Research Corporation, or MRC, which provides engineering and information technology services to this command and other government and civilian organizations.

Wilcox said there are "friendlies" in our air space and purview. "We have had other forces in our neighborhood that created a high-pressure decision-making situation. If there is a real incident, that is not the time to determine how you're going to engage," he said. "From this exercise, Soldiers experienced the joint command and control required."

July 2006

Reed assumes command of USAKA

By Nell Drumheller
Editor, *The Kwajalein Hourglass*

KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Republic of the Marshall Islands — Col. Beverly Stipe said a tearful goodbye July 11 as a prelude to the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll change of command.

Stipe transferred command to Col. Stevenson Reed in a ceremony at the Davye Davis Multi-purpose Room.

"This is a bittersweet occasion," U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Greta Morris said at the ceremony.

"Over the past two years, Col. Stipe and I have worked closely together to ensure t that USAKA was able to carry out its strategic mission for the security of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the entire Pacific region."

The ambassador continued, "There are many other things that USAKA, under Col. Stipe's leadership, has done and is doing, to strengthen our strategic, close and unique relationship with the RMI and our ability to work together to meet the new demands of our time, to promote our mutual security and to protect the freedoms that both our peoples hold dear. Sam, thank you for your strong leadership and dedication. Thank you for your friendship."

And to Reed, Morris said, "Col. Reed, I hope that you and your family will enjoy your time in Kwajalein and the Marshall Islands as much as I have. Kwajalein is a very special place, and you will be working with wonderful people."

Reed has had more than a year to prepare for his assignment as the USAKA commander. "I was told by my leadership at Fort Bliss [Texas] that I was selected to command Kwajalein in April 2005," he said.

He spoke to two previous USAKA commanders to learn about the mission and activities on Kwajalein, but admitted, "I really did not know the depth of the mission, until I visited the island in April. I was truly amazed and impressed to see what Kwajalein provided to the joint community."

Reed described his first impression of Kwajalein, "[This is] a place with tremendous potential. A community that is simply beautiful and picturesque with approximately 3,400 Americans and Marshallese employees and family members on Kwajalein, Meck and Roi-Namur Islands. I have seen all of the many new construction projects on the

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different islands, and I have seen facilities that I think take away from the beauty the islands have to offer. I would like to build some timelines and start removing those facilities."

Though on the island for a short time, Reed has considered USAKA's role within the bigger Army picture. "I see the mission of Ballistic Missile Defense Testing as the primary mission for Kwajalein, but I also see the need to incorporate more new foreignlaunch and space operations into our mission based upon our location and the current demands.

"We also want to continue working to support more missile testing for the Army, but other DOD agencies as well," he said. And how does Reed think the mission will change in the next five years? "The reduction of our footprint is going to happen and that action is already in the planning phase. I see the fiber optic cable from Kwajalein to Guam back to the mainland making all the difference and opening new opportunities for the mission. I see more agencies coming back to Kwajalein after the 2008 period when the cable is in place and the capabilities are marketed and demon-strated to the customers."

Army Col. Douglas H. Wheelock

NASA announces STS-120 crew

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

NASA recently announced the crew of astronauts who will fly the space shuttle for mission STS-120.

Col. Douglas H. Wheelock, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/ Army Forces Strategic Command, NASA Astronaut Detachment, has been assigned as one of the flight's mission specialists.

This mission will launch the Italian-built Node 2 connecting module to the International Space Station. Wheelock will conduct both Extravehicular Activity and robotics operations during the mission's three scheduled spacewalks.

Wheelock, a native of Windsor, N.Y., will be making his first spaceflight during this mission. He began his Astronaut Candidate Training in 1998. Wheelock is a West Point graduate and has a master's degree in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech, Atlanta.

Other members of the crew are Air Force Col. Pamela A. Melroy, who will command the STS-120 mission; Marine Corps Col. George D. Zamka, who will serve as pilot; and Scott E. Parazynski, Navy Capt. Michael J. Foreman and Paolo A. Nespoli, a European Space Agency astronaut from Italy, will serve as mission specialists.

Army Col. Jeffrey N. Williams launched April 5 for a six-month mission at the ISS. That crew is conducting a variety of scientific experiments, to include studying the effects of long-term weightlessness.

August 2006

Missile Defense System goes operational during Korean missile crisis

By Maj. Laura Kenney, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Groundbased Midcourse Defense) headquartered here was brought to operational level by U.S. Northern Command in response to the recent Korean missile crisis.

With interceptors located in Alaska and California, the unit, which had previously been maintained in test mode, was moved for the first time to operational status. Composed of fulltime Colorado National Guardsmen and a contingent of active Army Solders in Colorado and manned exclusively by active Alaska National Guardsmen in Alaska, the 100th MDB remained at high alert status for the duration of the crisis.

The crisis culminated in North Korea's multiple test launches July 4. It was determined quickly that none posed a threat to the United States or its territories. All seven (six July 4, one early the next morning) landed in the Sea of Japan. The long-range Taepodong-2 failed in the early stages of its launch.

Members of the brigade and its battalion, the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD) in Alaska, rose to the heightened mission requirements with great spirit. Although vacations and military schooling had to be canceled, no complaints or grumbling was heard. This was the mission all training had been focused on for years.

A Soldier who'd been enroute to Hawaii for leave with a spouse prior to the spouse's departure for an Iraqi deployment was called back. Cruises left for exotic locations with family members aboard as the Soldiers reported back to headquarters for duty.

The mood throughout the crisis was of taut readiness to do whatever was required.

"As we saw this play out over a span of weeks, every single Soldier wanted to be on the crew that would respond in defense of the nation. We weren't called upon to do so, but we were ready," said brigade commander, Col. Michael Yowell. Intelligence from multiple sources kept the crews informed and on their toes.

"We had excellent situational awareness," said the brigade's intelligence officer, Maj. Porter Grant. "From the initial preparations to the day the North Koreans fired, our Soldiers knew what they needed to know to perform their mission."

On the day of the actual launch, Echo crew was on duty.

1st Lt. Scott Slaughter, battle analyst for Echo crew at the Fire Direction Center in Alaska, said, "We've always understood how important our mission was; that the primary reason for our existence as a unit is defense of our nation. That day, if possible, we understood it even more clearly. As a student of history, I can say that both we and the North Koreans will learn a lot from what happened. Before and during the incident, I [we] had complete confidence in the system and our training. After the actual launches, we continued scanning the horizon because you can never let your guard down."

The FDC director on duty July 4 was Capt. Chad Haman, dual certified as a battle analyst and director.

"The real world intelligence made all the difference in the world. In the five years I've been with the system, there were never any doubts that we would be ready. After all the building, practicing and rehearsing, and then the additional build-up to this particular event, we were ready for anything. Afterward, we were able to capture excellent lessons learned," said Haman.

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Ted Hildreth, who took command May 8, said that on the big day there were no surprises.

"There was an integrated sight picture of the potential threat posed by the [Democratic People's Republic of Korea] between Cheyenne Mountain, the brigade and the battalion. Our crews drilled and rehearsed any number of potential threat scenarios to practice and refine provided firing doctrine, to include defined tactics, techniques and procedures. I was there in the node the day they launched, and our response was exactly the same as had been trained for. This one just happened to be real."

In Colorado Springs, Maj. Ron Hoard and his crew came on duty at the Missile Defense Element shortly after the first two short-range missiles had been fired. The MDE and FDC crews mirror each other, with MDE having a larger command and control role, and FDC taking the lead tactically, although they can act interchangeably.

Hoard said the prior launches had everyone in an immediate heightened state of awareness.

"Very shortly after we assumed duty, the Taepodong-2 was launched. It failed almost immediately, and we were informed pretty close to instantaneously of that failure. The crew reacted magnificently — exactly as we'd trained — going into crisis action mode without the slightest hesitation."

The GMD System, while not utilized in response to any of the launches, was available when needed to defend the United States and its allies. Trained and ready missile defense crews were at their stations on systems prepared to respond as necessary. USNORTHCOM had the primary responsibility to direct missile defense operations to protect the home-land, allies, friends and other national interests from potentially hostile acts.

Echo Company Soldiers welcome new command sergeant major

Sgt. Adam Mitchell
Unit reporter

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — Soldiers expect change. In fact, we are taught the Army is all about change. The recent modernization the Army is going through is a grand example of that. Change begets curiosity and anticipation.

The same is true regardless of how big or small the change is from force re-modernization to something as simple as a new boss. All Soldiers know a new boss is more than just someone else to tell you to do the same things that have always been expected of you.

In the Army, a new boss can affect your life in and out of the office or duty hours, and it should come to no surprise that with new superiors come new anticipations and expectations from subordinates.

Echo Company Soldiers recently welcomed their new boss, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON)'s Command Sgt. Maj. Terence Farmer. The preparation for Farmer's first visit to Echo Company started as any other would, with the cleaning of the company areas.

The typical hospital operating room standards were not going to be enough for the visit. More was needed. The environment was gearing up to instill an appropriate level of anticipation and respect in Soldiers for the upcoming visit. Dress uniforms could be seen hanging in doorways and car windows awaiting a squad leader's inspection.

As Farmer's arrival time drew near, tentative schedules began appearing, and the preparation for welcoming signs were being put together, all while select members of the organization were beginning to predict the best restaurants to enthrall Farmer with.

The environment of preparation for a VIP is nothing new around Echo Company. With today's interest in the space frontier on the battlefield Echo Company's site is used to shaking hands with senior leaders of today's Army. This normalcy was what everyone was expecting when they heard the new command sergeant major was coming to visit.

However, this time they were nicely surprised. Instead of the seemingly rehearsed speeches heard from others, Farmer had a down to earth attitude. He was exactly what everyone thought a noncommissioned officer who knows how to mentor would be like.

On this visit, it was obvious that Farmer was assessing this company. He spoke with numerous Soldiers, asking questions about their experiences, their families and their ideas of leadership.

It didn't dawn on the Soldiers at first, but inquiring about a Soldier's idea of leadership was enabling the Farmer to assess his NCOs' abilities to train their Soldiers to be leaders. Farmer was, from the start, making assessments on the company's leadership while having everyday conversations with the Soldiers and their families.

Yes, the typical sensing sessions were held, but as much information was derived from other less coordinated conversations about the command climate and standards.

Not only did Farmer assess the Soldiers and leaders at Echo Company, he began setting the example by sharing his vision of the Company and the new Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) schedule. Farmer addressed concerns about using the MTOE format while working the 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week shift schedule. He did this by demonstrating the importance of the squad leaders' responsibility to manage Soldiers. His plan highlighted the duties and responsibilities of NCOs.

The squad leader has responsibilities to ensure the mission is manned appropriately while at the same time assuring Soldiers are attaining the appropriate training, both mission essential and basic Soldiering.

Command Sgt. Maj. Terence Farmer

Farmer was able to answer the questions about scheduling concerns with MTOE and show how the answer is an NCO being able to take charge, manage time, and lead his Soldiers to success.

As a leader, Farmer visited with Echo Company for only two days but displayed his ability to quickly assess a situation, address concerns, and display trust in his NCOs.

The expectations Farmer has placed in Echo Company leaders are high ones, however, the trust that is inherent in those responsibilities is motivating.

The atmosphere in Echo Company since Farmer's visit has been uplifting, as it should be when a VIP comes to town. The visit invigorated Soldiers and reignited the flame to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. The visit was inspiring and motivating.

Photo by Dottie White

Tech Center director receives recognition for contributions

Lonnie Poling (left) of Brown International Corporation, chairman of the Joint Integrated Air & Missile Defense (JIAMD) Summit Working Group, along with Lisa Gilbert, president of Women in Defense and Michael C. Schexnayder (far right), deputy to the commander for Research, Development and Acquisition, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command / U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, present a certificate of recognition and appreciation to Dr. Rodney Robertson Aug. 10 on Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Robertson was recognized for his many contributions to the success of the recently completed Inaugural JIAMD Summit and his services as the team leader of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance focus area working group.

Indian Wars staff ride educates GMD Soldiers

By Maj. Laura Kenney, 100th MDB (GMD) Public Affairs

STORY, Wyo. — The hills look much different today … Then, they were littered with the broken, bloody bodies of cavalrymen in blue and of their equally agonized horses. The feathered arrows punctuating the battlefield served mute testimony to the agents of the combatants' demise, but naught else was quiet — screams from wounded and dying men and horses mingled with curses and prayers to create a horrific blanket of sound.

Today, all is quiet … one could hear the wind in the tall grasses surrounding the silent white gravestones. The ground is now clear — evidence of that long ago tragedy is buried with its blood and bones and tears under the green hills.

Standing by the graves of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and his men was a fitting culmination to an Indian Wars staff ride undertaken by Soldiers of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense). Sixteen members of the unit and six family members took the 500-mile trip here from their headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo. Aug. 24-26. The purpose of the trip was to educate unit members on how military lessons of the past may be applied to today's battlefield and to also build unit cohesiveness and esprit-de-corps. Staff rides are a centuries-old tradition in the military of passing on lessons learned.

This particular staff ride emphasized the journey to the catastrophic Battle of Little Big Horn, both chronologically and physically. Unit members, accompanied by military history experts from the Staff Ride Team, Combat Studies Institute, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., visited three battle sites that were considered to be preludes to "Custer's Last Stand," before completing the journey and the story where it ended 130 years ago.

Andy Tafoya, a DA contractor serving as a senior military analyst for the 100th MDB, set up the staff ride for the unit. Tafoya, a retired Air Defense Artillery officer who had previously worked extensively with missile defense during his military career, has been an avid history buff since his first staff ride 20 some-odd years ago, and perhaps even longer than that, as he was raised on stories of a famous ancestor — Bernardo Miera y Pacheco — who was the first cartographer to chart the Grand Canyon region back in the 1700s.

Tafoya brought an enthusiasm and a passion to the project that was contagious. At a planning meeting two weeks before departure, he outlined upcoming events, ending with a heartfelt, "In just a few days, you'll be standing where Custer stood, seeing something of what he saw in the last moments of his life. You should all be getting goose bumps about now."

The two instructors from Leavenworth greeted the Soldiers and family members when they arrived at the staging area here, the morning of Aug. 25.

Dr. Ricardo Herrera and Lt. Col. Kevin Kennedy gathered the group in a half-circle on the lawn outside the Wagon Box Inn — the cowboy-bunk style inn where attendees stayed. The instructors used charts to detail the upcoming journey, starting with Fort Phil Kearny, moving to the Bozeman Trail, then to the sites of the Fetterman and Connor Battlefields and the Wagon Box Fight, finally culminating at Little Big Horn. The instructors drew parallels between past and present, and the unchanging, in their view, nature of man.

Herrera stated categorically, "Don't think what we're doing in Iraq is the first time we've been involved in so-called 'nation-building.' That is exactly what we were doing in the Indian Wars, facing many of the same challenges our Soldiers in the Middle East are facing as we speak. Back 'then,' our Soldiers had to *find* the enemy, he didn't just openly confront. Our troops had to figure out how many they were facing — the Indians didn't want pitched battles as they couldn't afford to lose large numbers of people. Their biggest threat to our Soldiers was often their constant harassment of supply trains. Think convoy. Does any of this sound familiar? It should."

Visiting Fort Phil Kearny, the Soldiers saw cannons and the outlines of the original fort. They listened as the instructors told of the fort's mission of protecting travelers along the Bozeman Trail and of trying to prevent intertribal warfare between the Native Americans in the area. They heard how the site became the focal point of a violent war between the U.S. Army and the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians opposed to white intrusions into the last great hunting grounds on the Northern Plains. Silhouettes of Indians on horseback stood guard on the surrounding hills, allowing the modern day visitor a small inkling of how members of the fort might have felt so long ago, continually under observation.

One attendee, Staff Sgt. Kurtiss Clark, commented, "Reading about and seeing the actual sites of these battles are two different things. Literally seeing it from the perspective of the men who fought them made a big difference."

Traveling to the site of the Fetterman Fight and the monument erected to commemorate the massacre, the group walked some of the trail, where 81 cavalrymen fled down a century plus ago, in their uneven and doomed battle against 2,000 Indians.

Instructor Kennedy read a moving account of one Soldier's heroism, told from the perspective of a victorious Indian.

"Fighting against the horse Soldiers (cavalrymen) Swift Hawk did not feel brave when he stabbed the bugler, an old man who had fought bravely. When the old man had used all his bullets, he struck at our braves with his bugle, refusing to give up. He was old; he should have been sitting by the fire while his children fought. After he died, a brave covered him with a buffalo skin." Kennedy concluded the vignette by saying the body of the valiant bugler was one of the few corpses left undesecrated after the fight.

Coming at last, as Custer did, to Little Big Horn, the instructors intentionally took the group through the physical and chronological route of how the battle played out, discussing mistakes and misunderstandings that led to the final, infamous defeat. Ending at Custer's grave, all stood quietly for a moment, looking at the resting place of a man who, until that last day, had been renowned for both his battle prowess and his vanity.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Rice, a history buff who'd researched the battles extensively, said, "Standing there, after having seen and walked the actual terrain, changed my view of the battle dramatically. I understood it much better than before. It brought home to me two lessons: one, that you should never underestimate your enemy, and two, just because something worked before doesn't mean it will work again. This tour was a very clear demonstration of those points."

From Little Big Horn through missile defense to nation-building in Iraq — for the Soldiers of the 100th MDB, the staff ride drew it all together.

Photos by Sgt. Sara Storey

Military history instructor Lt. Col. Kevin Kennedy points out key factors of the Fetterman Fight during an Indian Wars staff ride undertaken by Soldiers and family members of the 100th MDB (GMD).

Michael Tafoya, son of 100th MDB (GMD) senior military analyst Andy Tafoya, checks out a cannon at Fort Phil Kearny with the assistance of Branwyn Kenney, daughter of Maj. Laura Kenney.